

SHUICHI  
SHIGENO

OMNIBUS

01

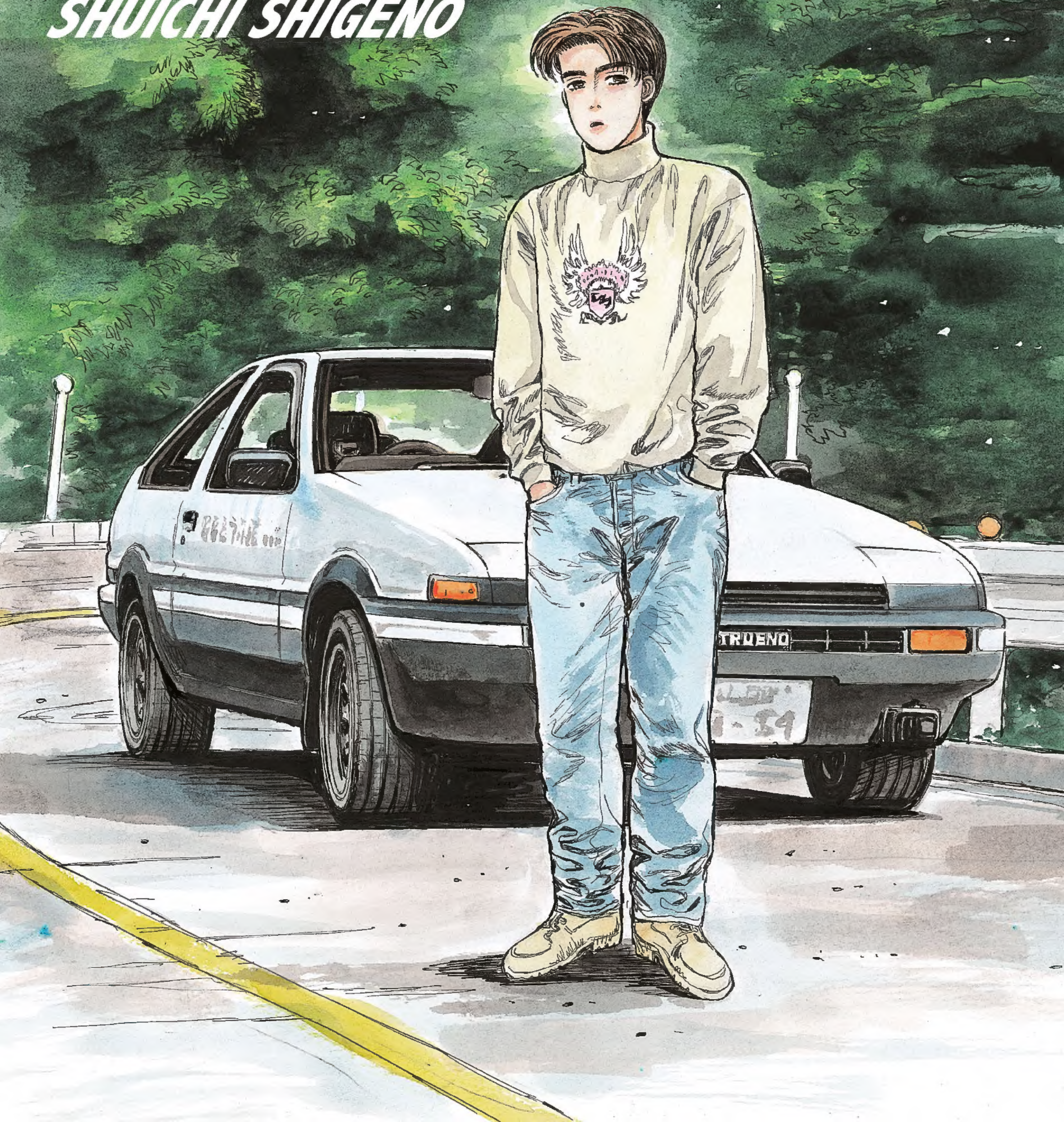
# INITIAL D





# INITIAL 頭文字 D

SHUICHI SHIGENO





# INITIAL 頭文字D



OMNIBUS

1



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Mount  
Akina,  
Gunma  
Prefecture,  
about  
80 miles  
northwest  
of Tokyo

Summer

The year  
199X.

▷Ch. 1: Let's Buy an Eight-Six!



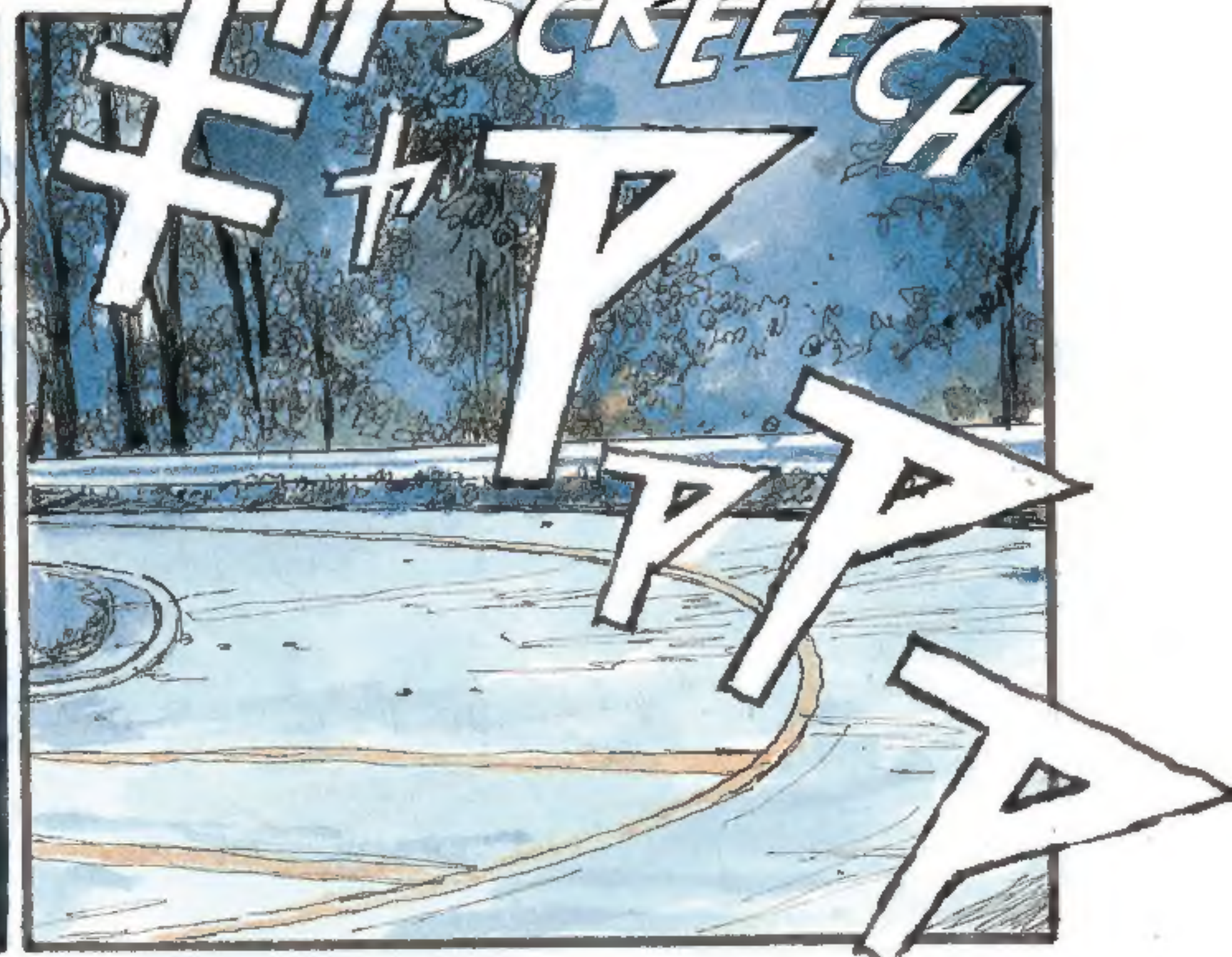
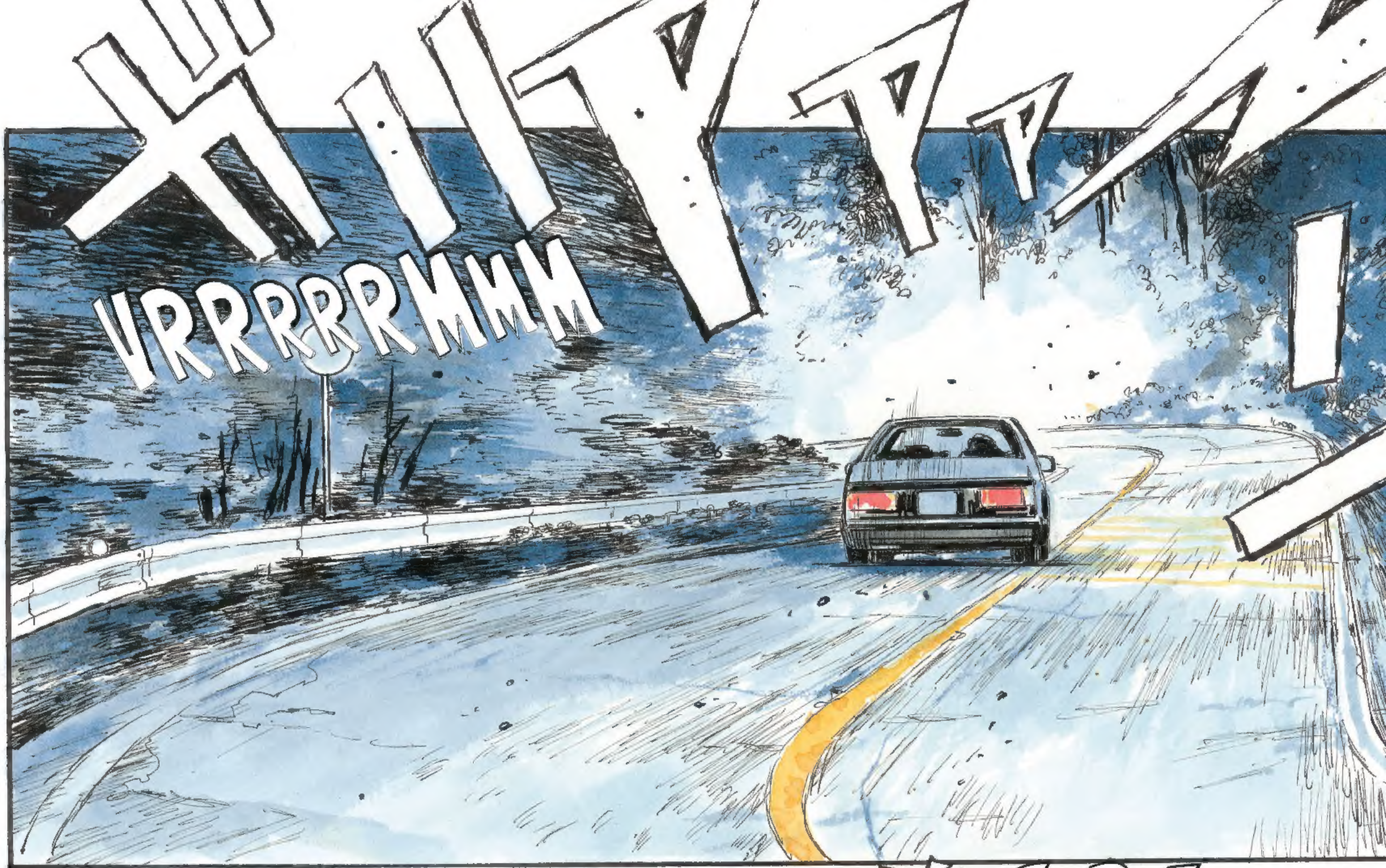




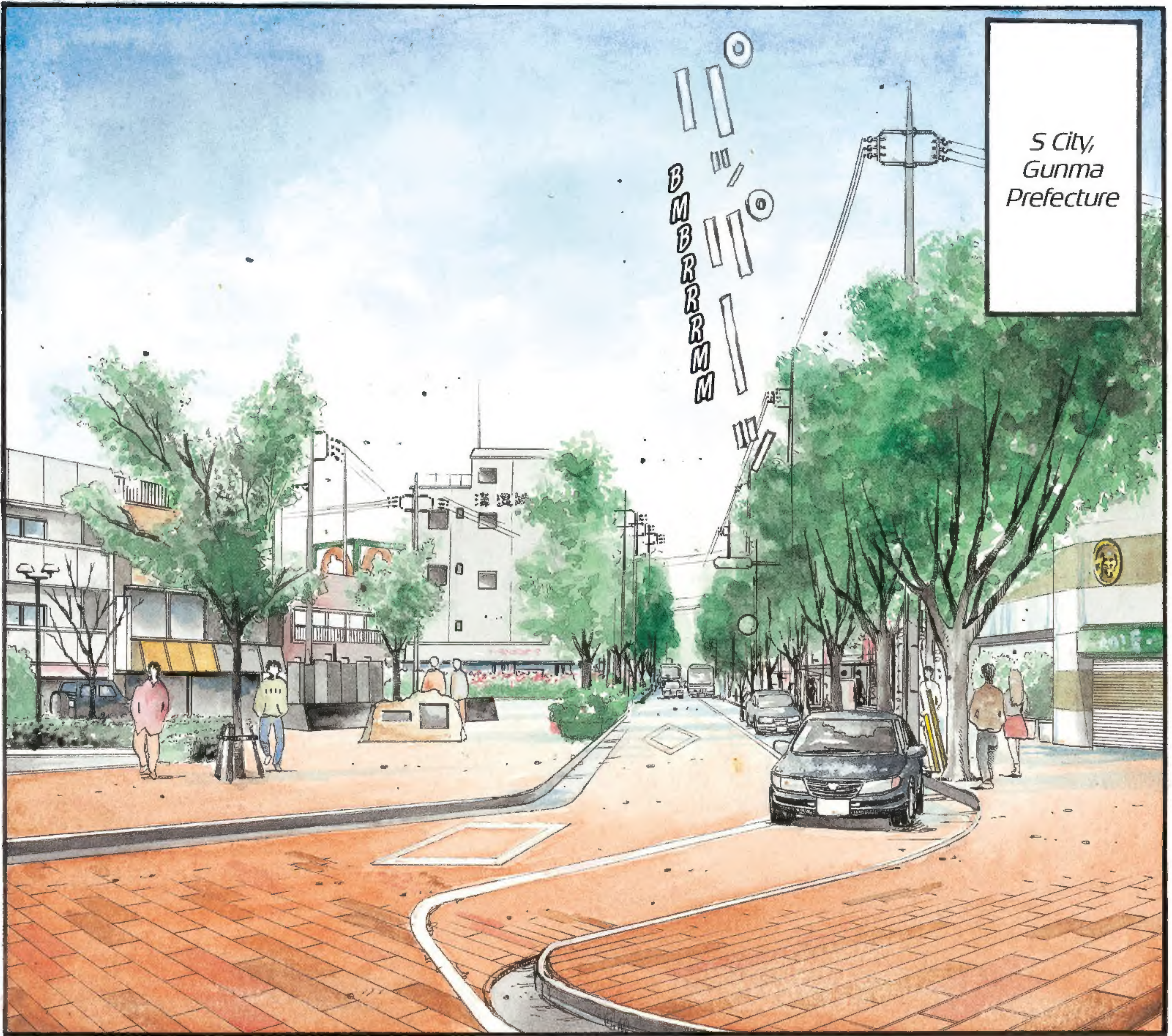
SCRRR

EEEECH

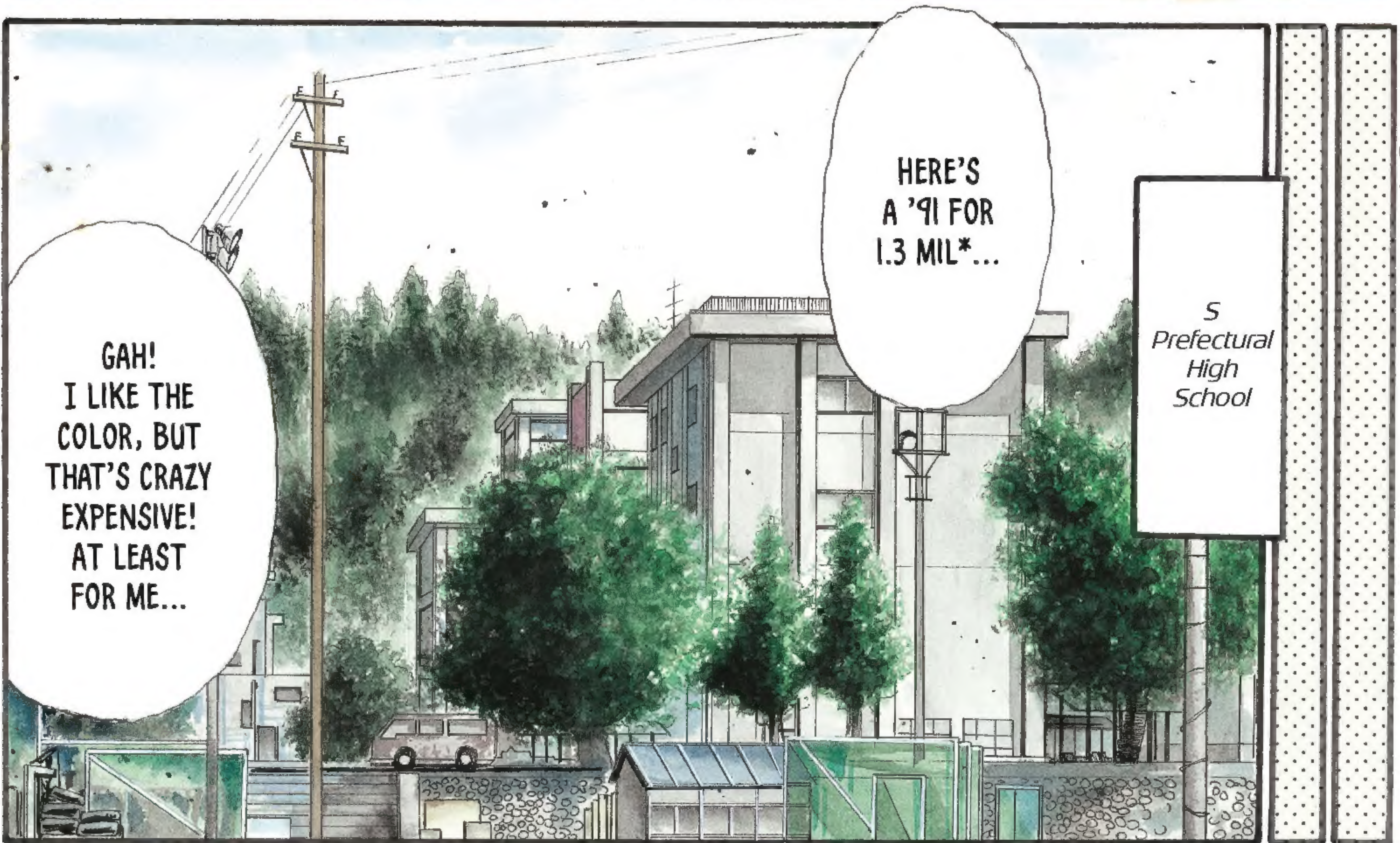








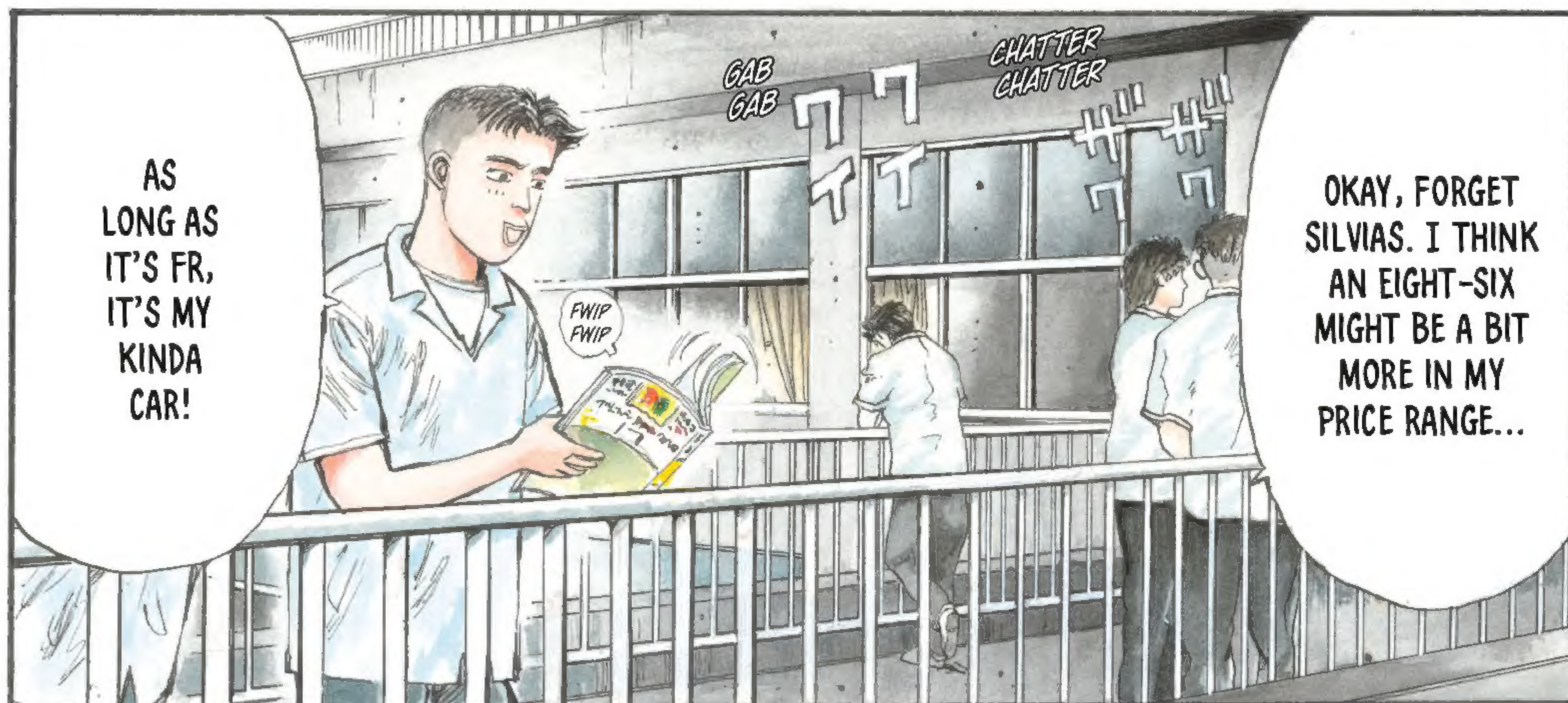
S City,  
Gunma  
Prefecture



S  
Prefectural  
High  
School

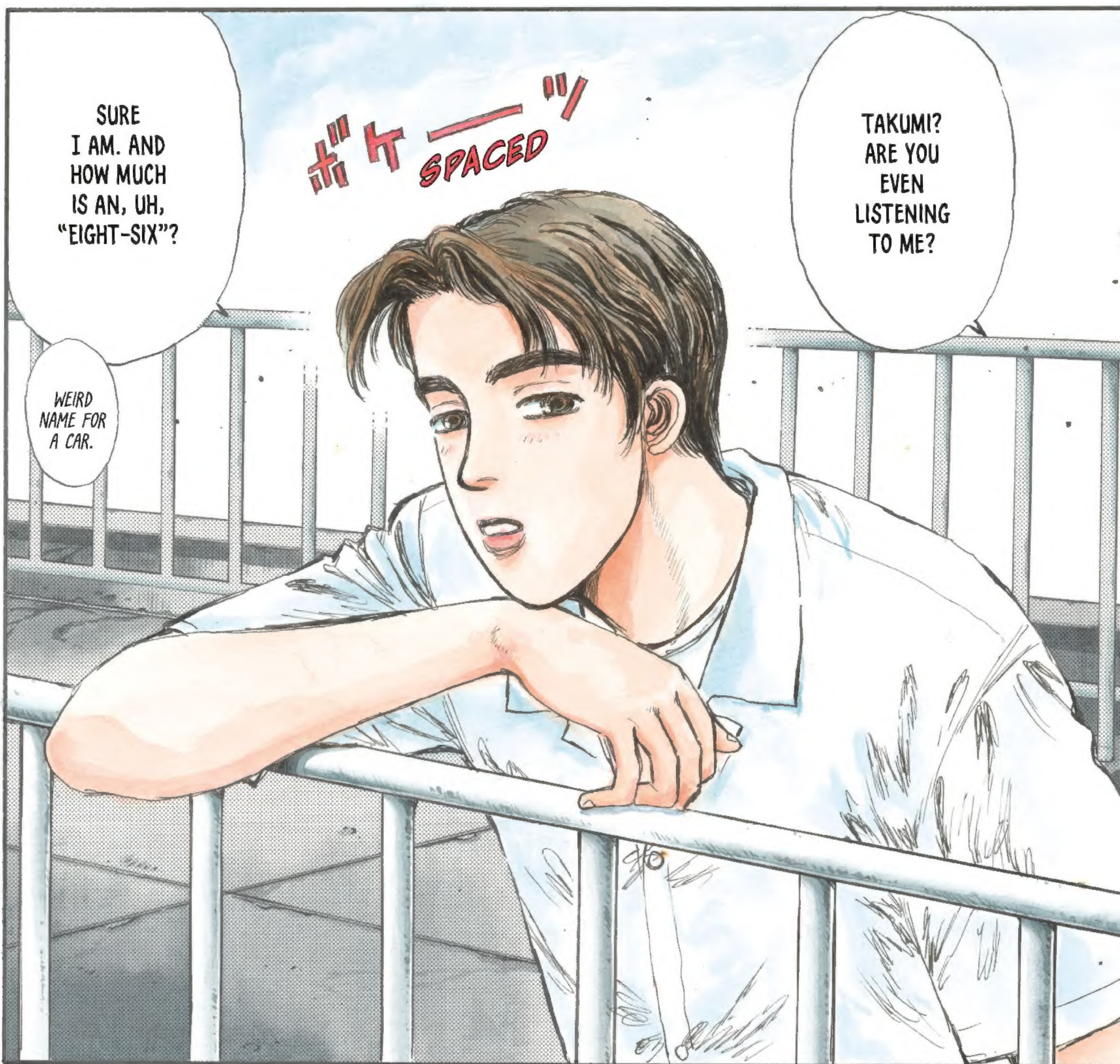
\*Note: Roughly USD \$13,000





AS LONG AS IT'S FR, IT'S MY KINDA CAR!

OKAY, FORGET SILVIAS. I THINK AN EIGHT-SIX MIGHT BE A BIT MORE IN MY PRICE RANGE...



SURE I AM. AND HOW MUCH IS AN, UH, "EIGHT-SIX"?

WEIRD NAME FOR A CAR.

TAKUMI? ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?

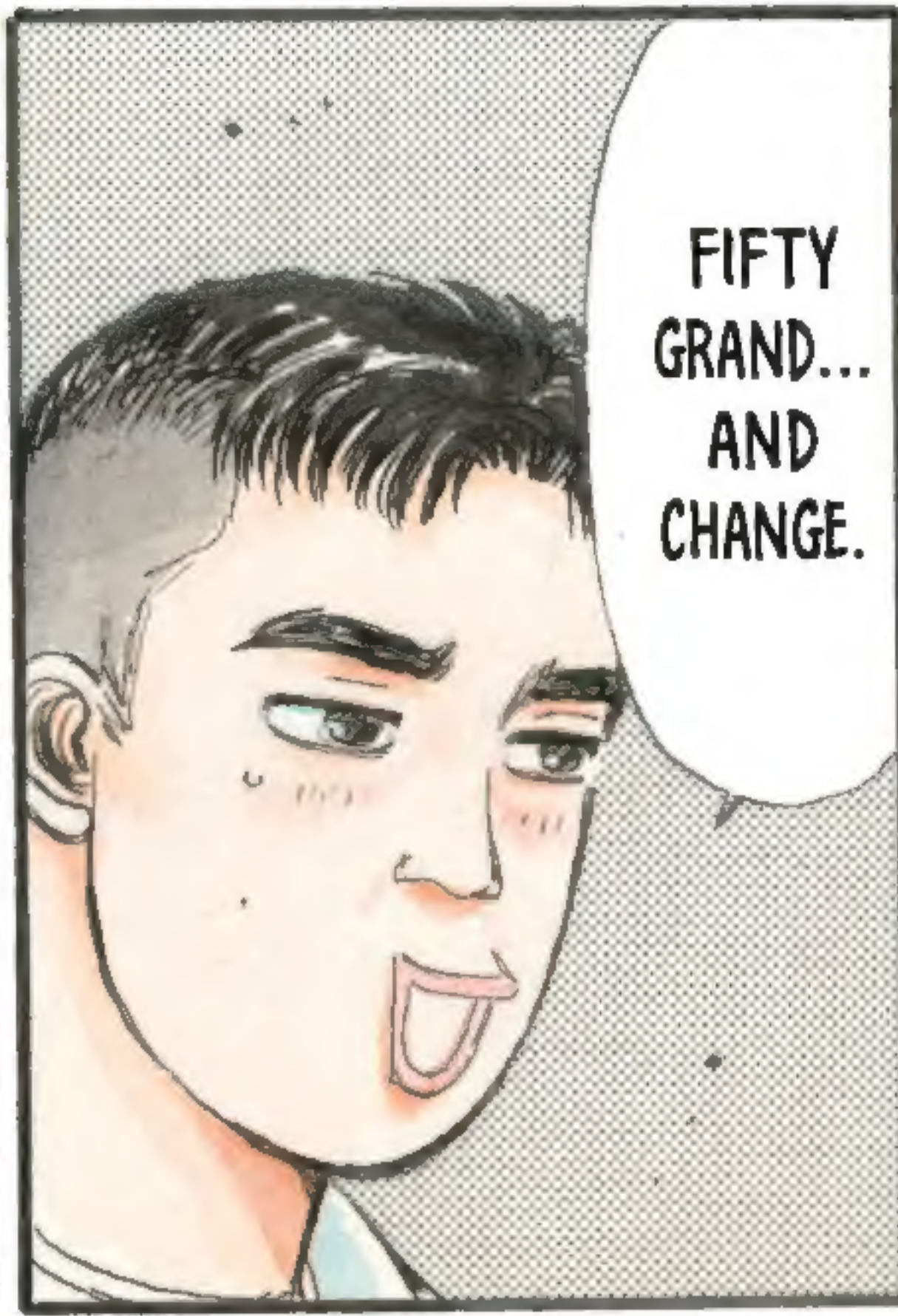
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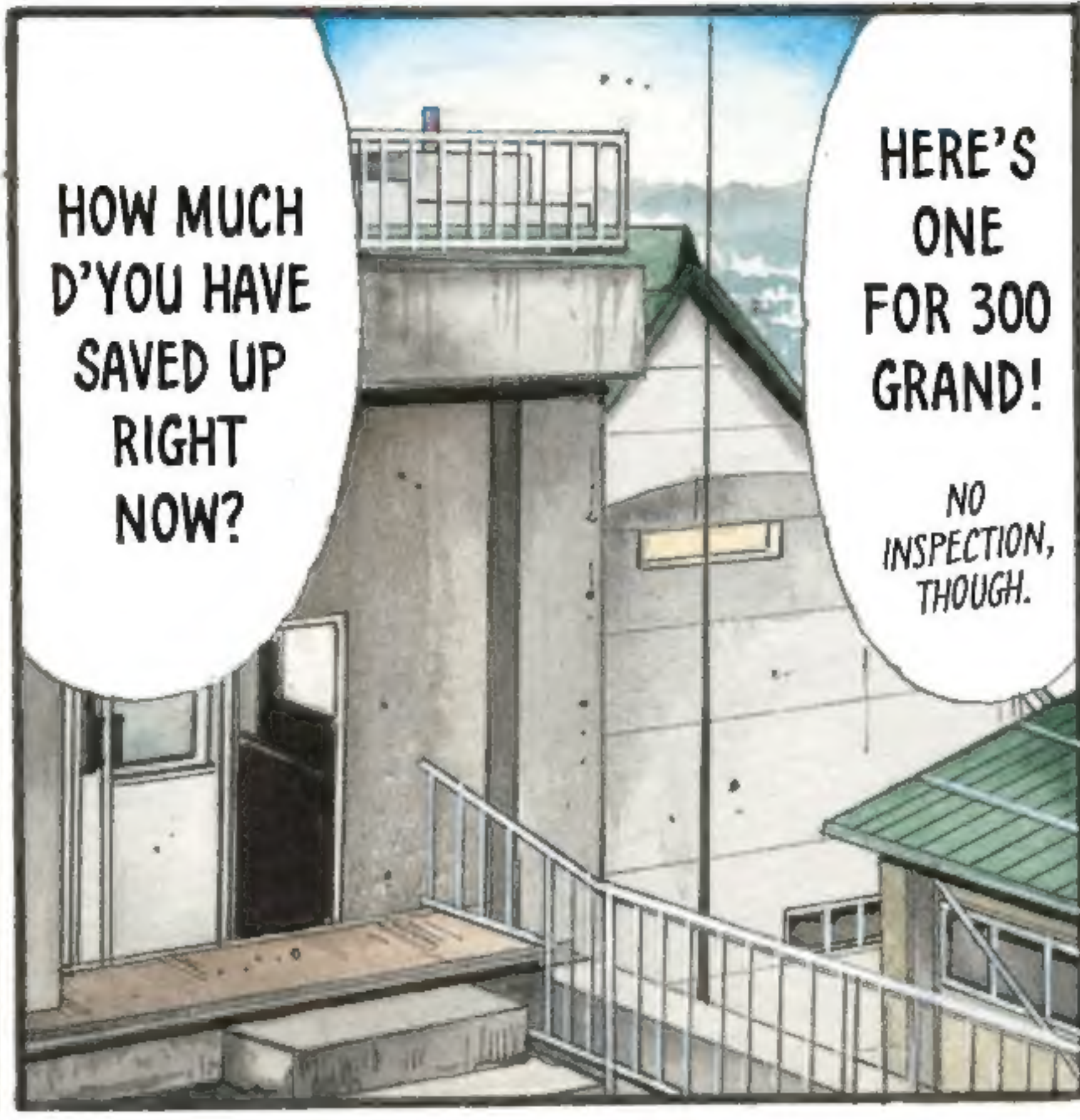


THAT  
CAR'S A  
LONG WAY  
OFF, HUH?

+" -"  
ZONED



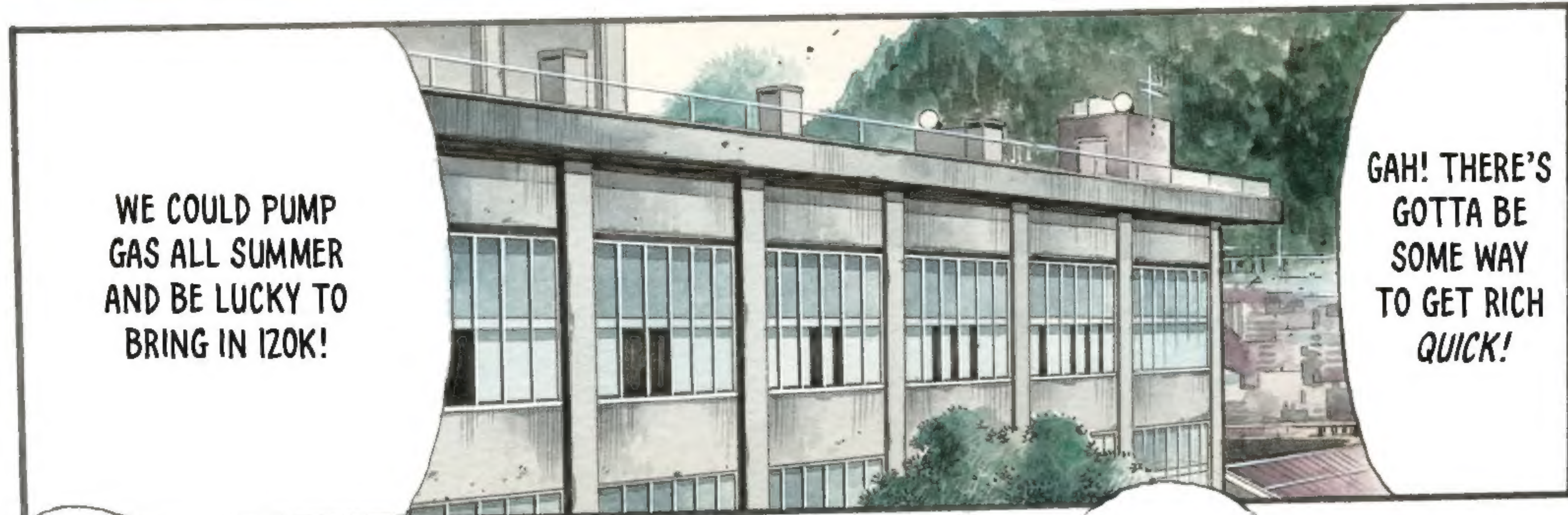
FIFTY  
GRAND...  
AND  
CHANGE.



HOW MUCH  
D'YOU HAVE  
SAVED UP  
RIGHT  
NOW?

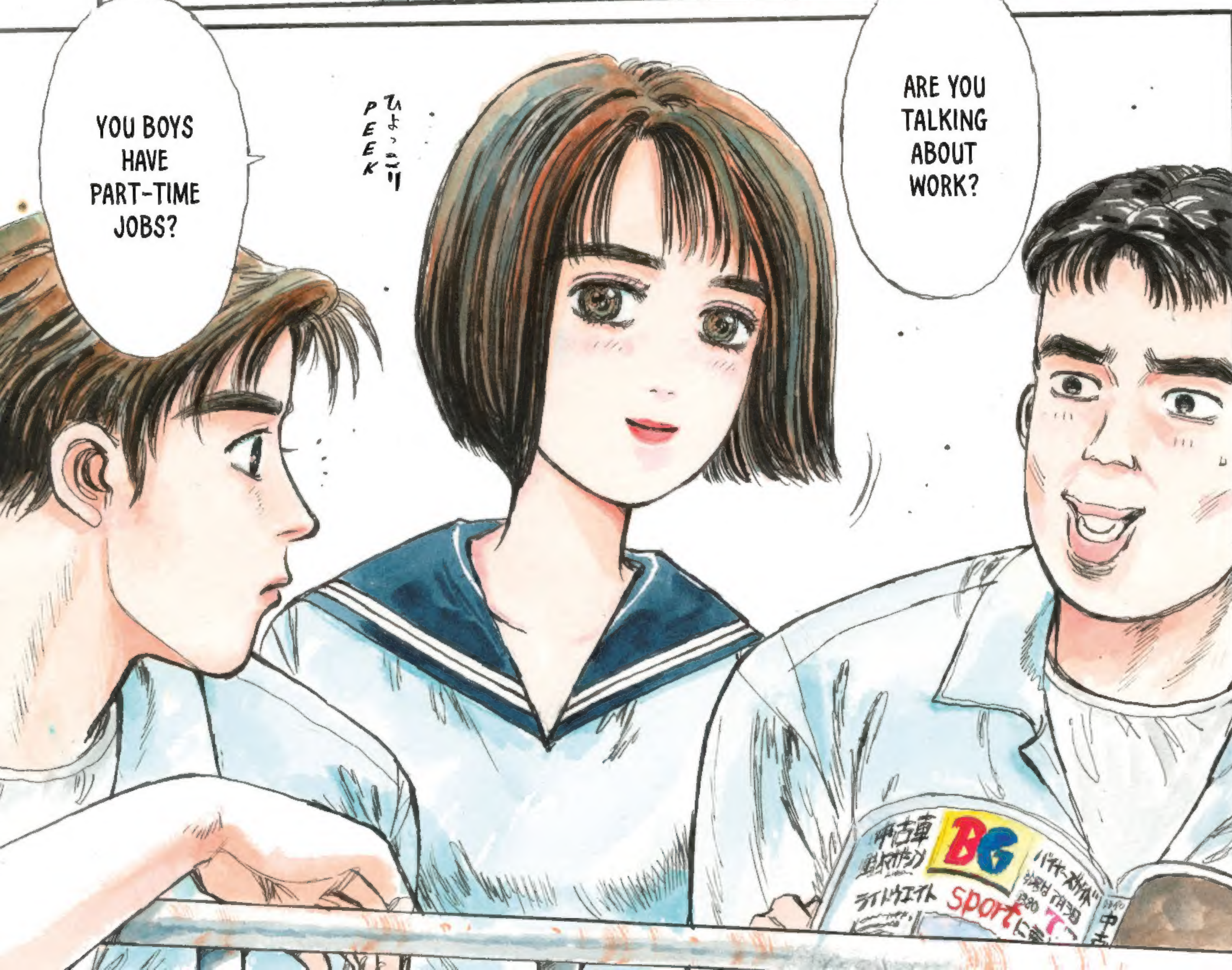
HERE'S  
ONE  
FOR 300  
GRAND!

NO  
INSPECTION,  
THOUGH.



WE COULD PUMP  
GAS ALL SUMMER  
AND BE LUCKY TO  
BRING IN IZOK!

GAH! THERE'S  
GOTTA BE  
SOME WAY  
TO GET RICH  
QUICK!



YOU BOYS  
HAVE  
PART-TIME  
JOBS?

うん、うん  
PEEK

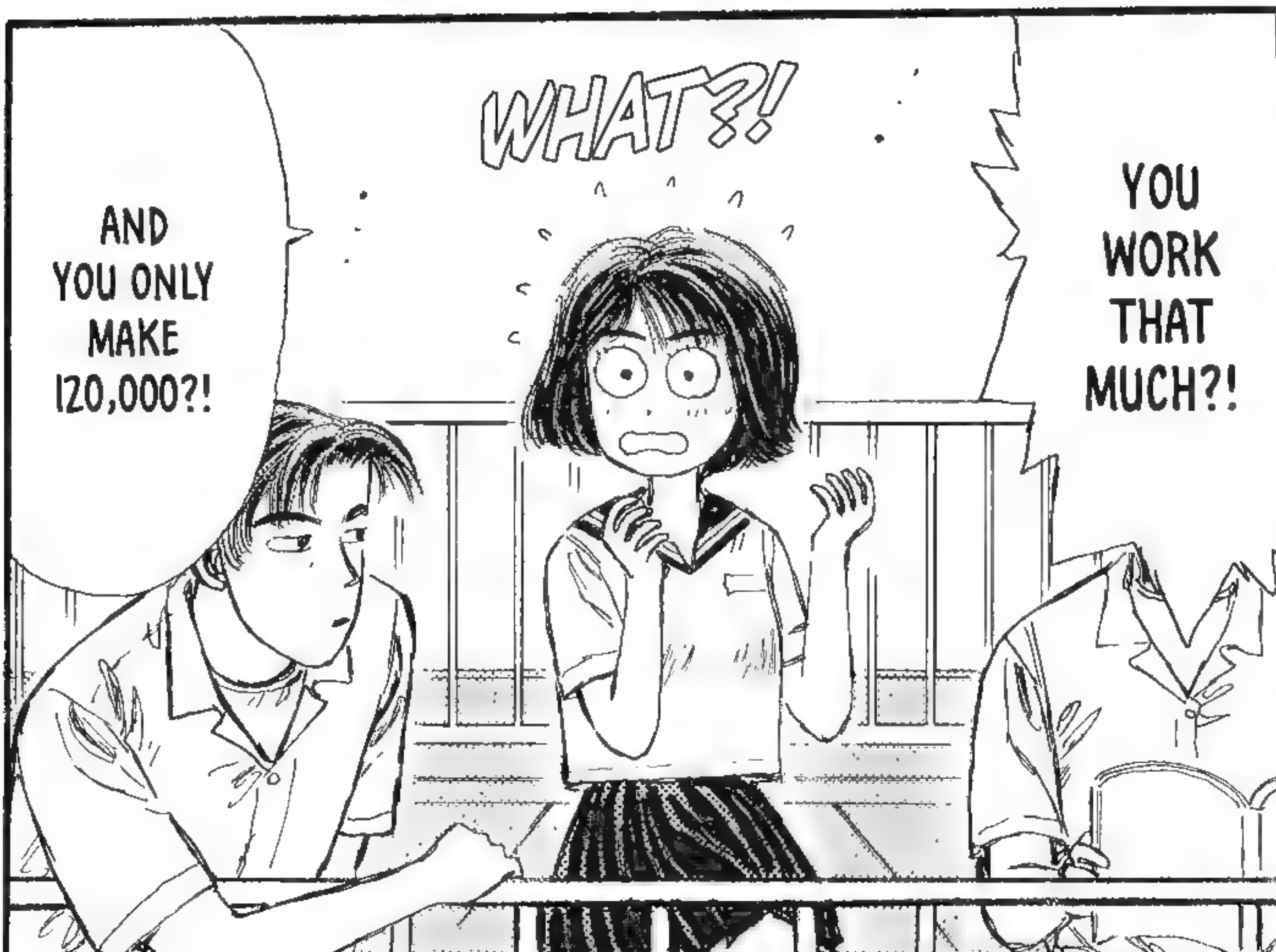
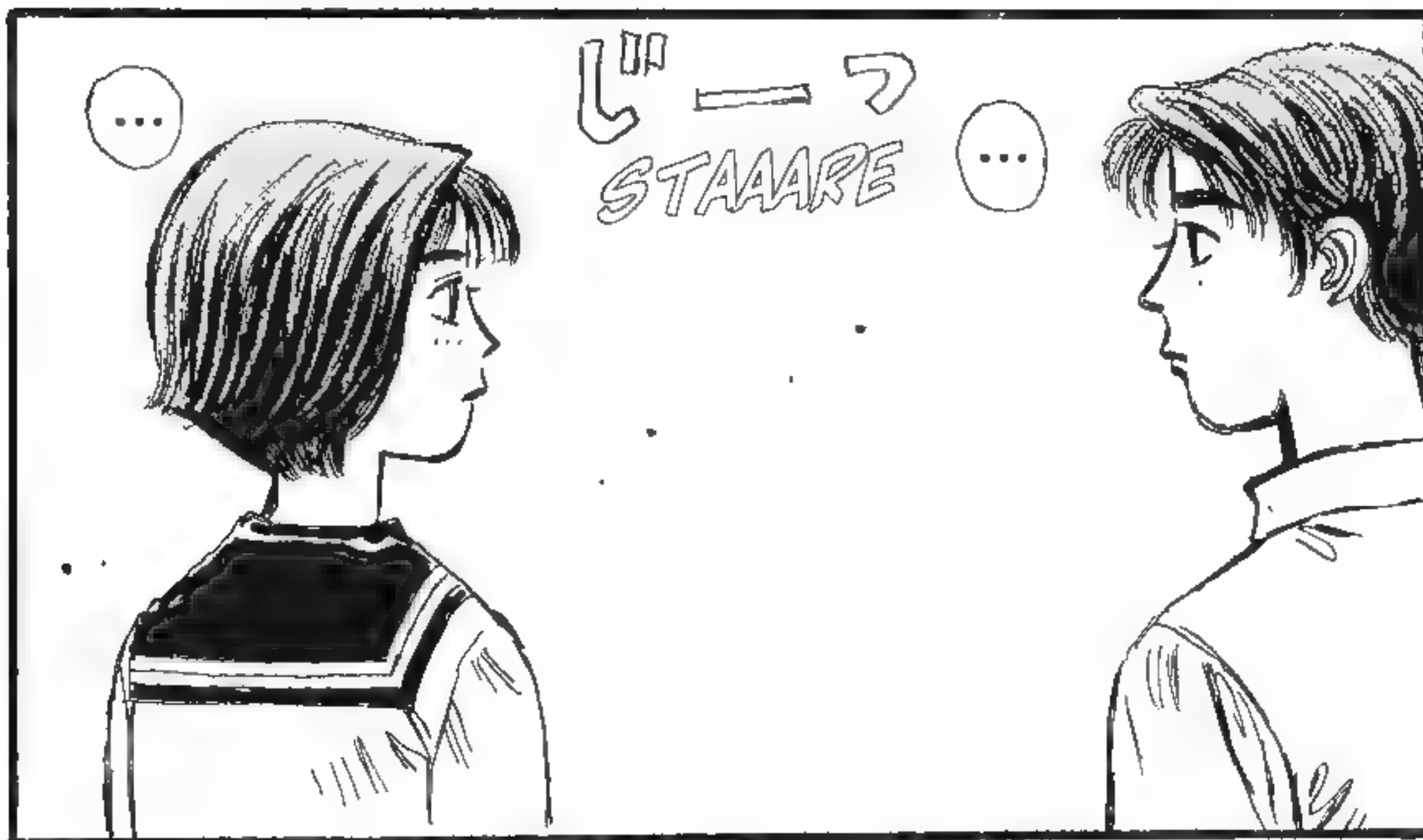
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
WORK?

中古車  
雑誌  
BG  
Sport  
1990  
12月  
15日













I'VE NEVER  
HAD A PART-  
TIME JOB.

I HAD  
NO  
IDEA.



HIGH  
SCHOOL  
STUDENTS  
ARE WAGE  
WORKERS...  
CHEAP  
WAGE  
WORKERS.

WHERE'D  
YOU GET  
YOUR  
MONEY  
SENSE?

"ONLY"?  
I'D SAY  
THAT'S  
PRETTY  
AVERAGE.



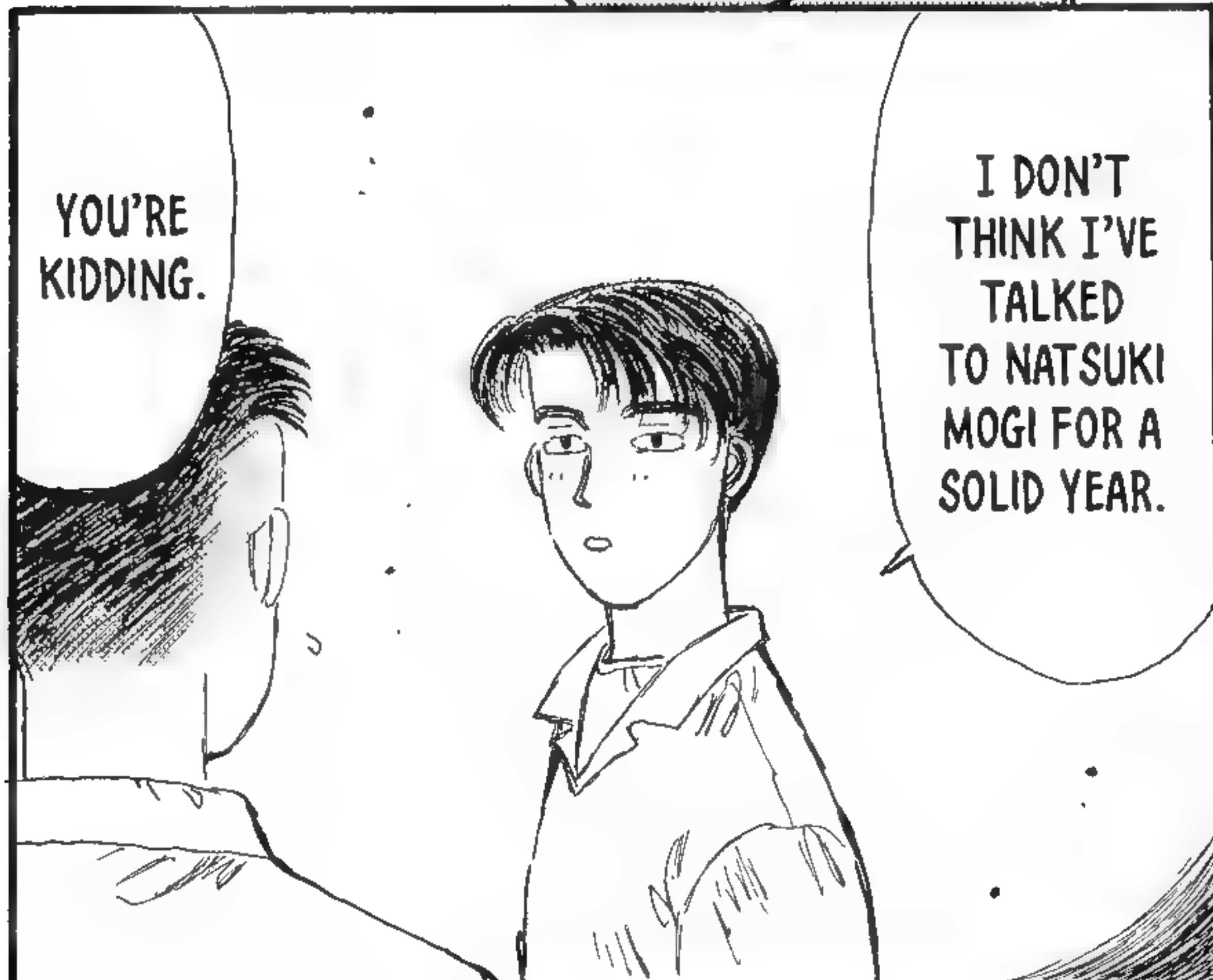
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B'BYE!

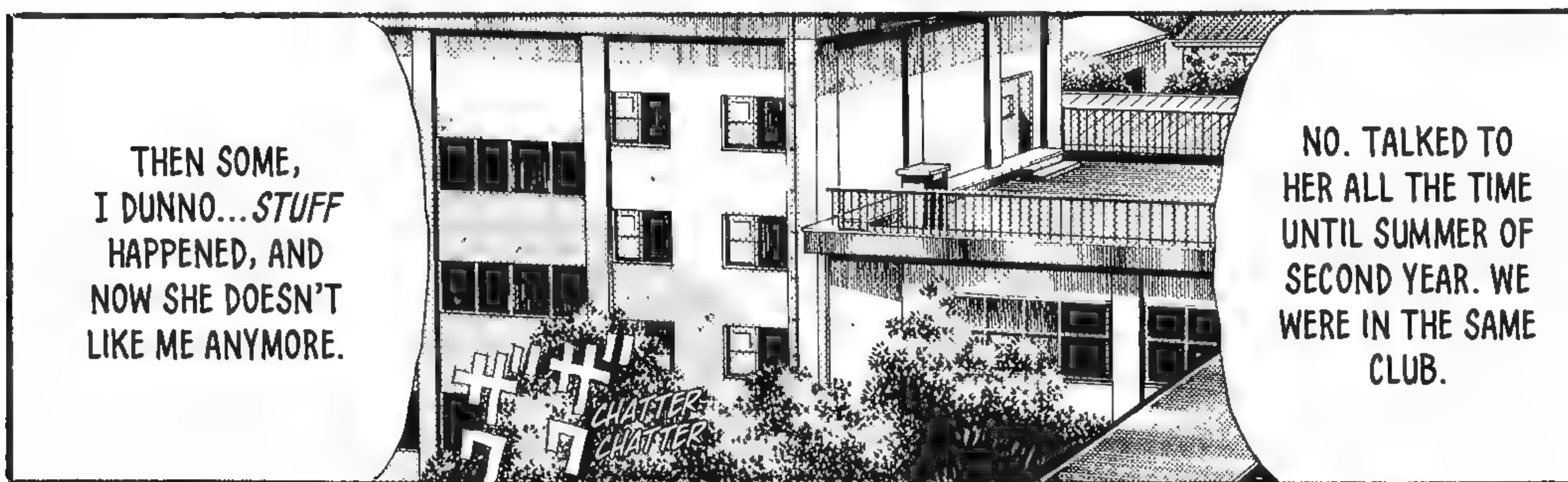
LET'S ALL  
HANG OUT  
SOMEWHERE  
AFTER  
FINALS ARE  
OVER, 'KAY?

WELL,  
WORK  
HARD!



YOU'RE  
KIDDING.

I DON'T  
THINK I'VE  
TALKED  
TO NATSUKI  
MOGI FOR A  
SOLID YEAR.



THEN SOME,  
I DUNNO... STUFF  
HAPPENED, AND  
NOW SHE DOESN'T  
LIKE ME ANYMORE.

NO. TALKED TO  
HER ALL THE TIME  
UNTIL SUMMER OF  
SECOND YEAR. WE  
WERE IN THE SAME  
CLUB.

CHAPTER  
CHAPTER



AND  
I SLUGGED HIM  
RIGHT IN THE  
LOCKER ROOM.

BUT  
SHE WAS  
DATING THIS  
GUY ON THE  
SOCCER TEAM,  
A YEAR AHEAD  
OF US.

I DIDN'T  
DO ANY-  
THING TO  
HER.

TRY  
T'JUMP HER  
IN THE CLUB  
ROOM?

HUH!  
WHAT'D  
YOU DO TO  
HER?

SHE WON'T EVEN  
LOOK AT ME WHEN  
WE PASS EACH  
OTHER IN THE  
HALLWAY. THAT'S  
HOW THROUGH SHE  
IS WITH ME.

AFTER  
THAT, I FELT  
LIKE I COULDN'T  
GO BACK, SO I  
QUIT THE TEAM,  
BUT MOGI'S  
STILL THE  
MANAGER.

THE GUY  
WAS A  
JERK,  
THAT'S  
ALL.

I DON'T  
REALLY  
WANT  
TO TALK  
ABOUT IT.

I GOT MAD.  
WHAT'S TO  
TELL?

THE  
HELL  
HAP-  
PENED?

GOTTA  
ADMIT,  
THOUGH,  
I DIDN'T THINK  
YOU HAD IT IN  
YOU TO HIT AN  
OLDER GUY ON  
THE TEAM.

I'M  
GETTIN' THE  
PICTURE.

KINDA WHAT  
HAPPENS WHEN  
YOU PUNCH HER  
BOYFRIEND.

...AND THEN  
SOMETHING  
PISSSES YOU  
OFF, AND  
BAM! YOU'RE  
A TOTALLY  
DIFFERENT  
GUY.

YOU'VE ALWAYS  
BEEN THAT WAY.  
YOU TOTALLY  
SPACE OUT, LIKE  
YOU'RE HALF-  
ASLEEP...



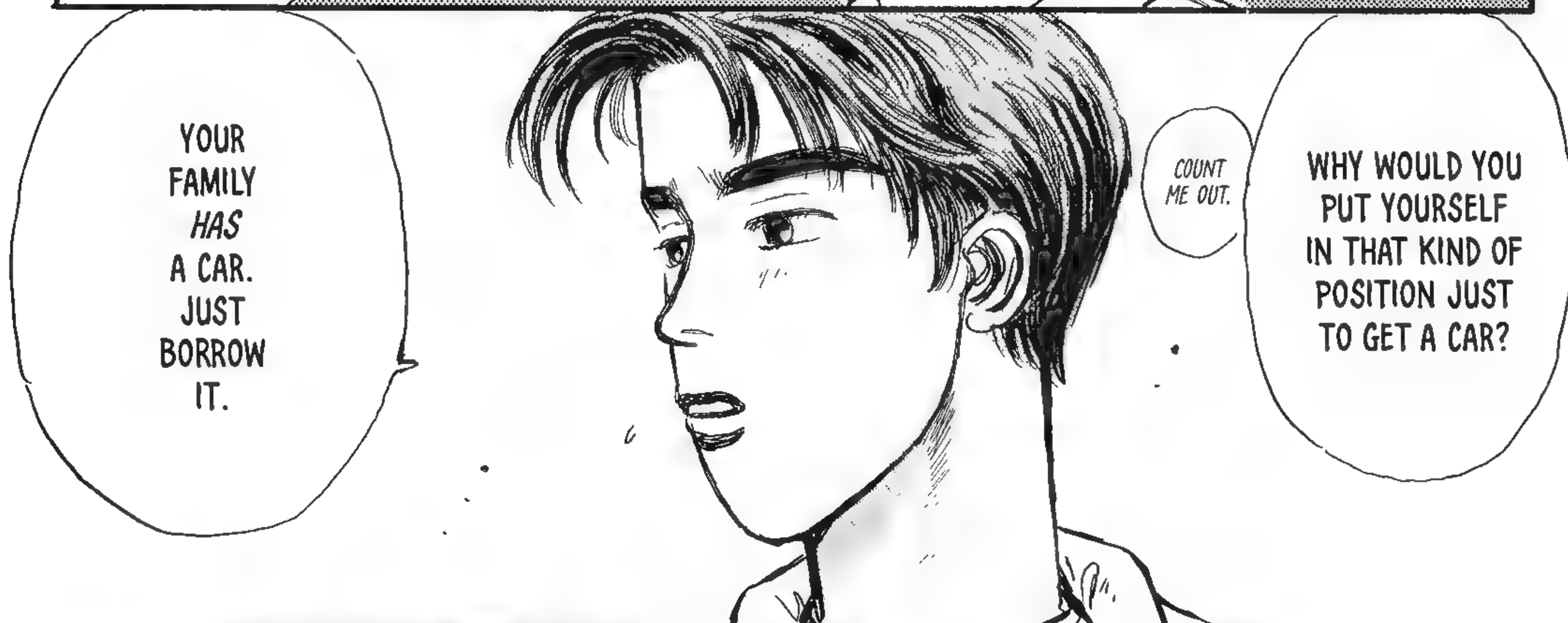






IF WE POOL  
OUR EARNINGS  
FROM OUR  
JOB, WE  
COULD MANAGE  
A LOAN!

I'VE GOT  
IT, TAKUMI!  
HOW ABOUT YOU  
AND I GO IN  
TOGETHER TO  
BUY AN EIGHT-  
SIX?



YOUR  
FAMILY  
HAS  
A CAR.  
JUST  
BORROW  
IT.

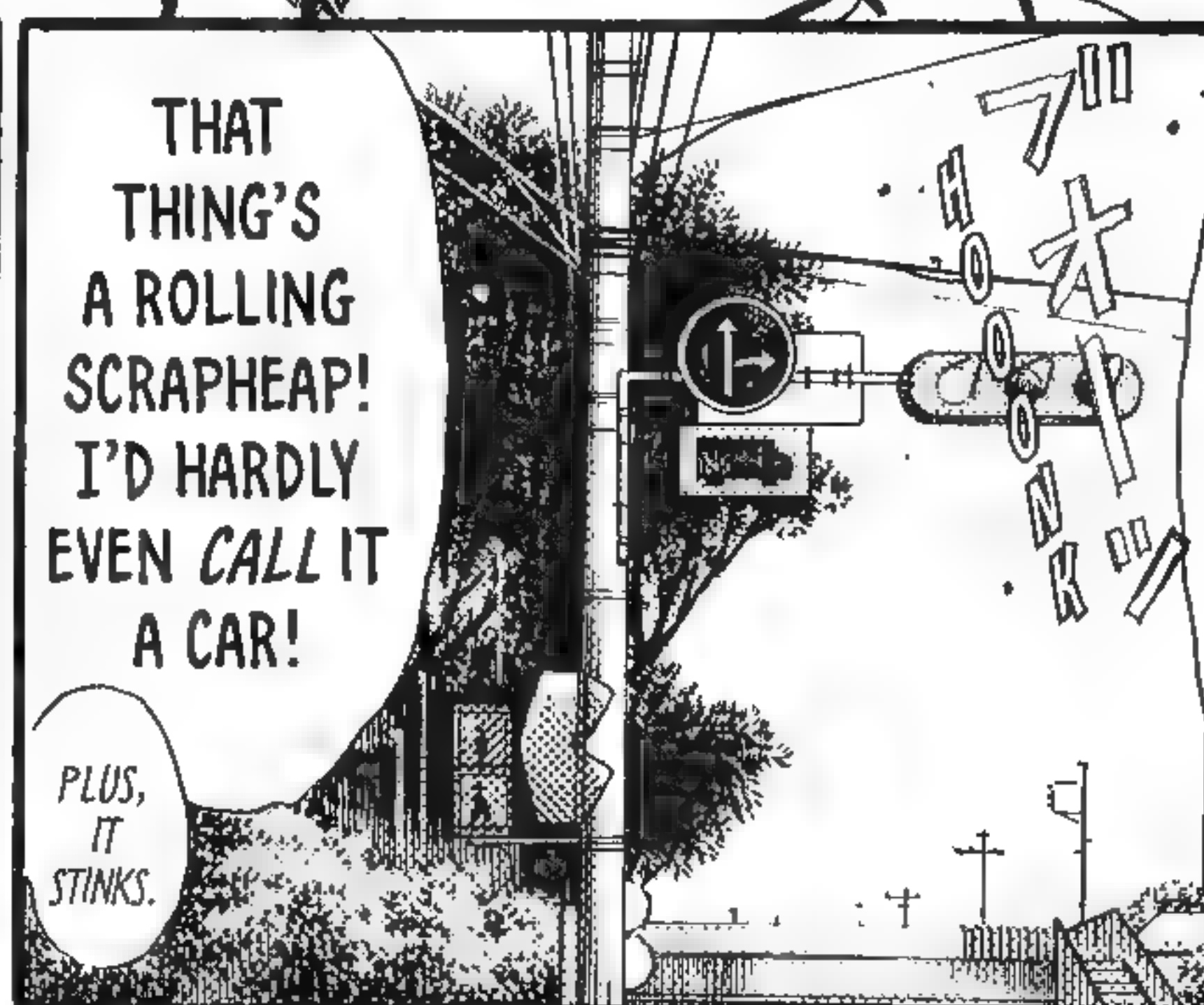
COUNT  
ME OUT.

WHY WOULD YOU  
PUT YOURSELF  
IN THAT KIND OF  
POSITION JUST  
TO GET A CAR?



IT'S  
GOT FOUR  
WHEELS.  
YOU CAN  
DRIVE  
IT. IT'S  
A CAR.

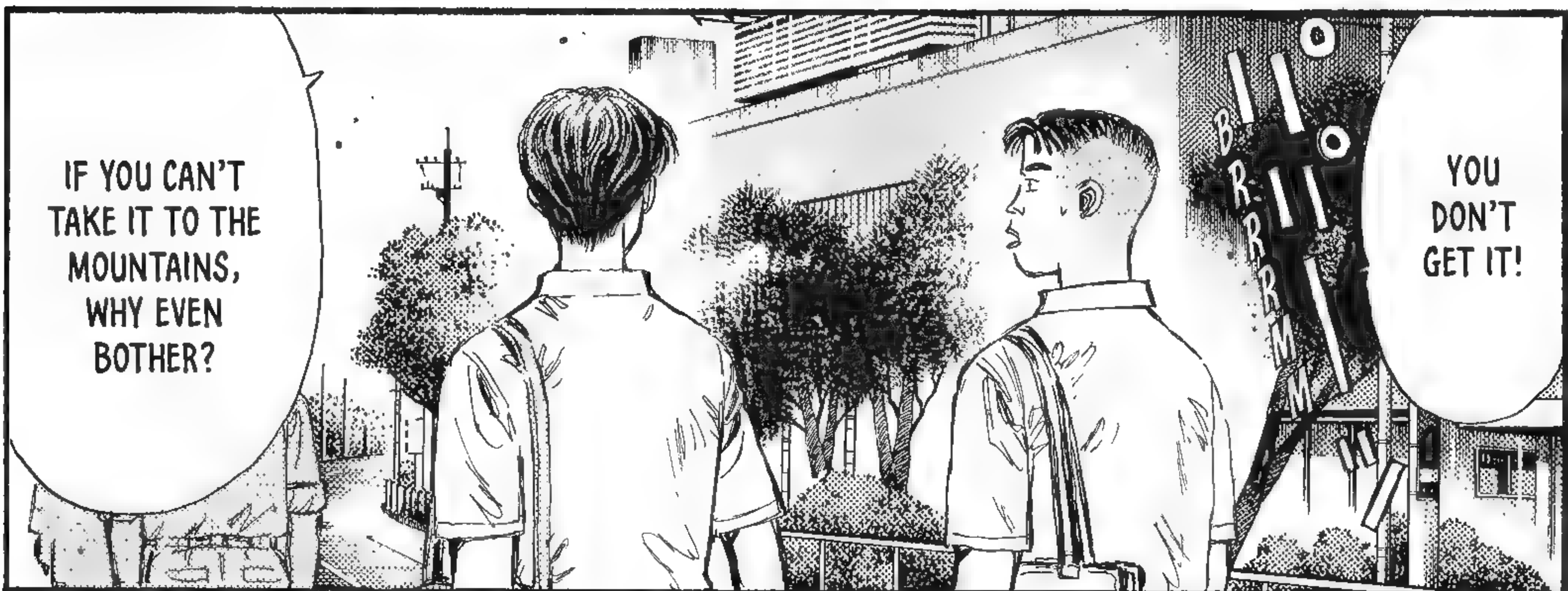
IT'S  
SPACED



THAT  
THING'S  
A ROLLING  
SCRAPHEAP!  
I'D HARDLY  
EVEN CALL IT  
A CAR!

PLUS,  
IT  
STINKS.

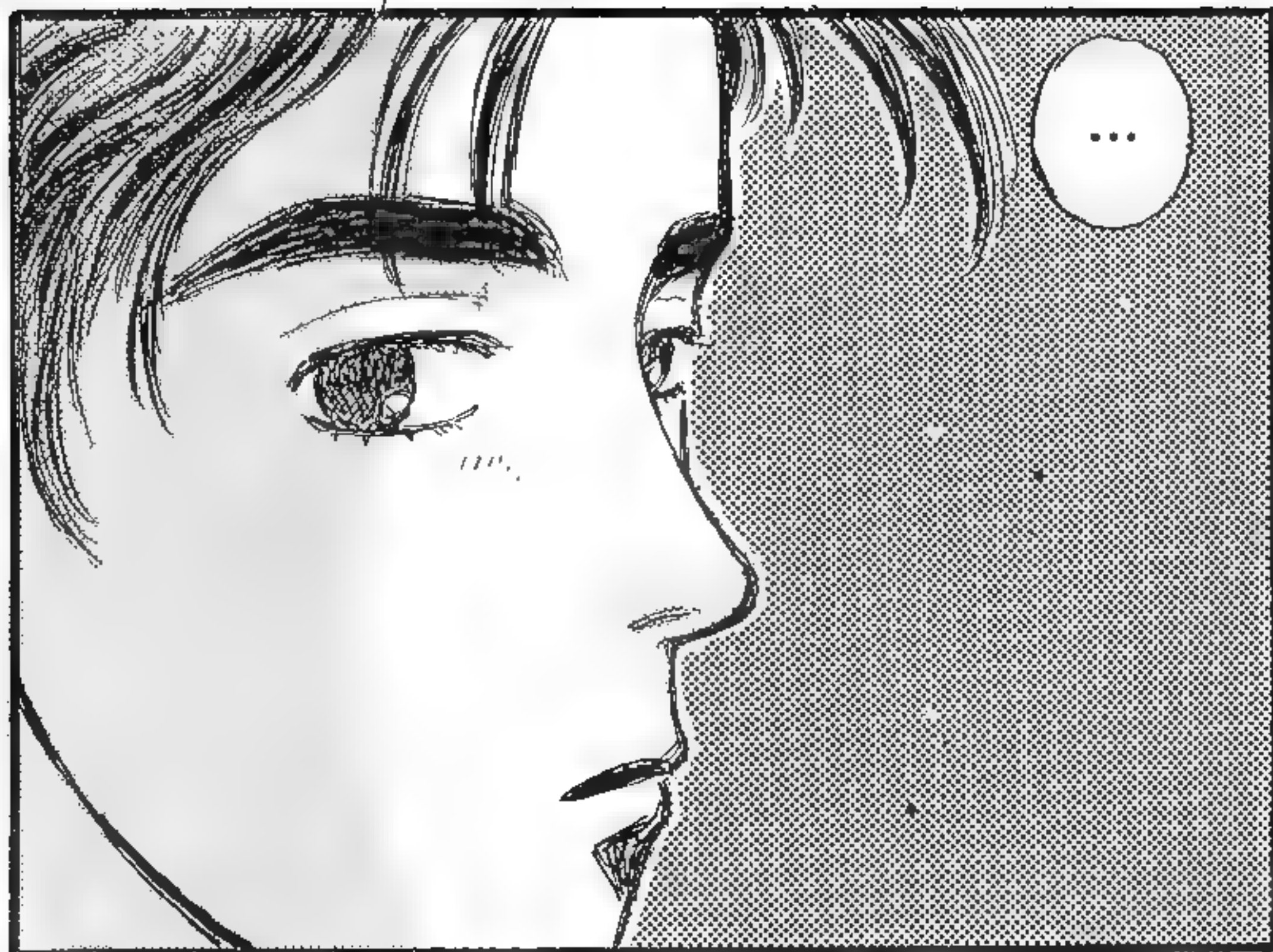
MY DAD'S  
AUTOMATIC FF  
WITH A DIESEL  
ENGINE? NO  
WAY!



IF YOU CAN'T  
TAKE IT TO THE  
MOUNTAINS,  
WHY EVEN  
BOTHR?

YOU  
DON'T  
GET IT!

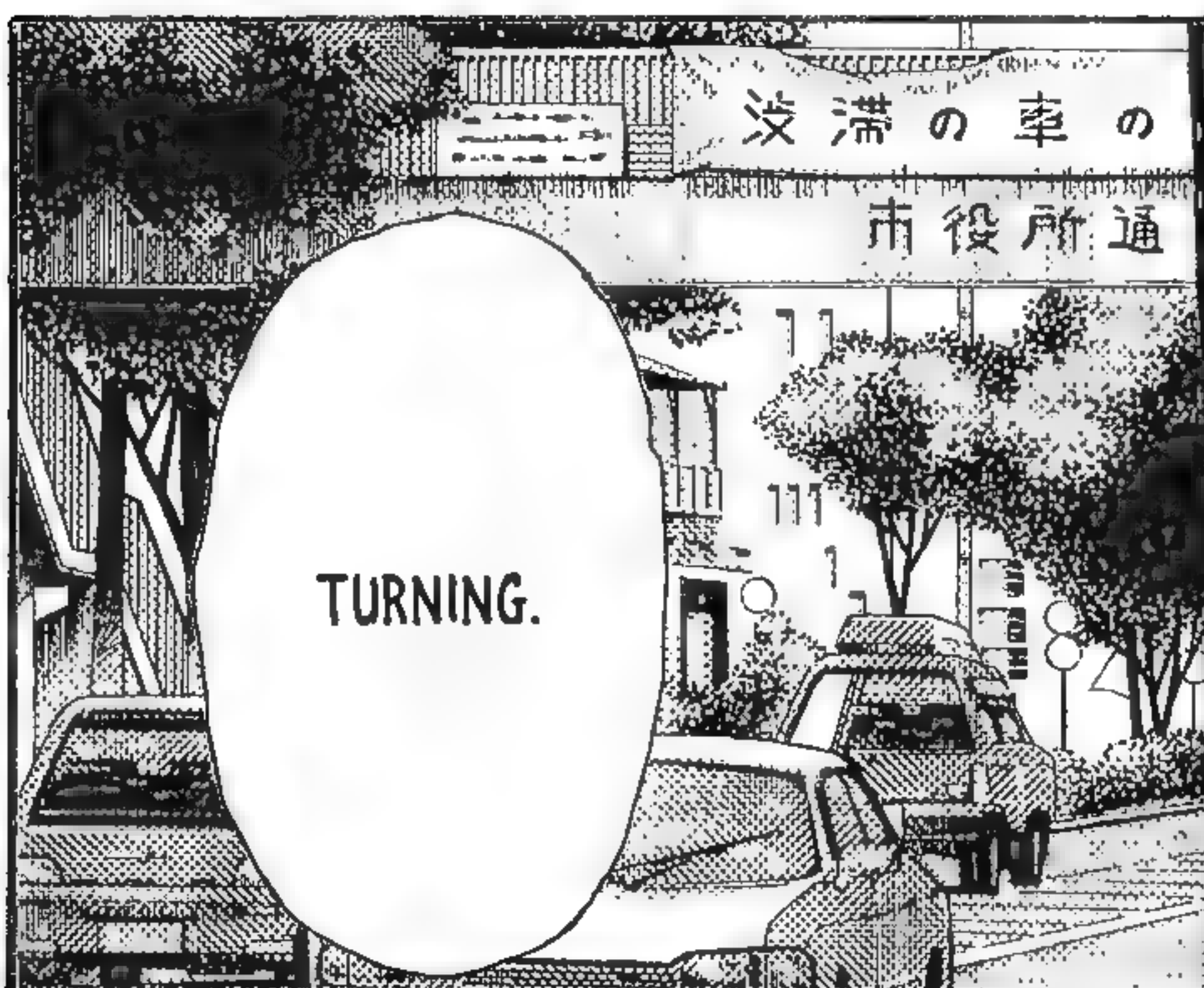




WHAT ELSE?  
YOU SLAM IT  
THROUGH THE  
TURNS!

///  
B  
R  
A  
M  
B  
R  
A  
M  
B  
R  
A  
M

WHY? WHAT  
DO YOU  
DO IN THE  
MOUN-  
TAINS?



TURNING.



AND...  
THAT'S  
FUN?



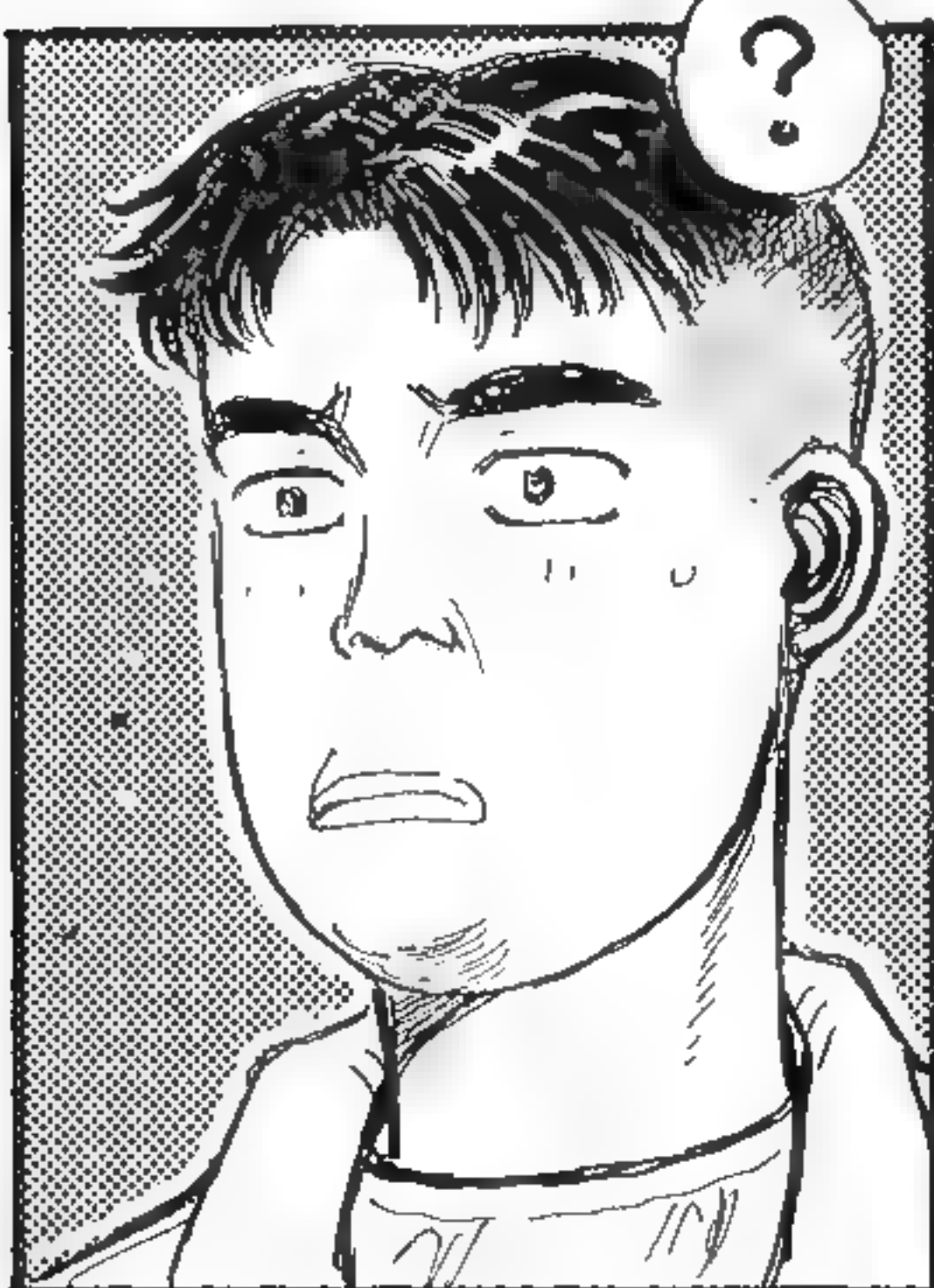
OF COURSE  
IT'S FUN!

NOT THAT I'D  
KNOW. NEVER  
DONE IT...

SOMETIMES  
I THINK WE  
DON'T EVEN  
SPEAK  
THE SAME  
LANGUAGE,  
TAKUMI...



G  
W  
U  
H?!



NO THANKS.  
I'VE PRETTY  
MUCH HAD  
MY FILL OF  
THAT.

ボソッ  
MUTTER



HOW CAN A  
RED-BLOODED  
YOUNG MAN  
NOT WANT TO  
TEST HIMSELF  
AGAINST  
THE BRUTAL  
CORNERS OF  
A MOUNTAIN  
PASS?!





YOU ONLY GOT YOUR LICENSE LAST MONTH. WE BOTH DID!

THE HECK IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

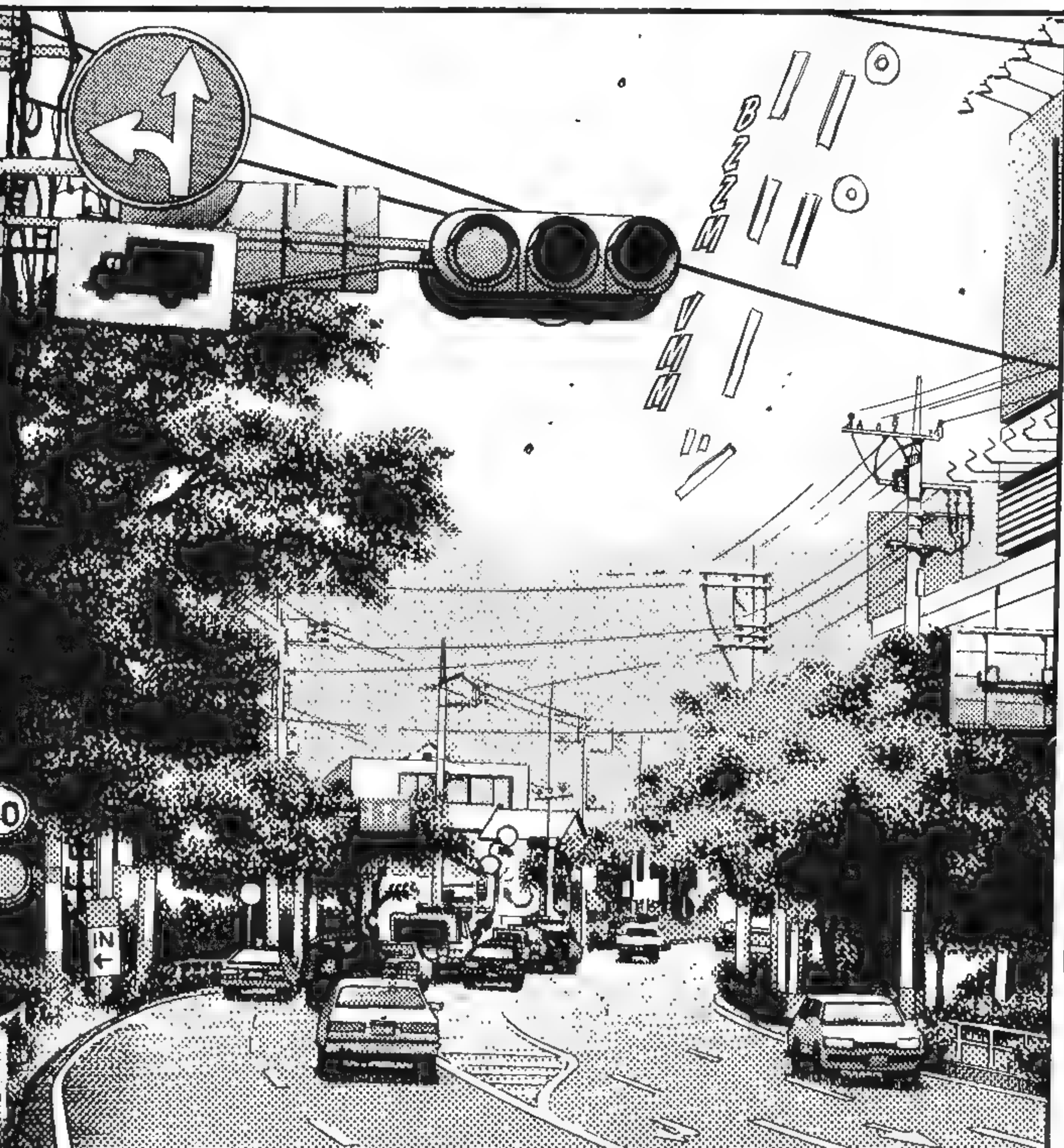


GEEZ. YOU'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT A GAME ALL THIS TIME?

I THOUGHT SOMETHING SEEMED FUNNY...

I WANNA HIT UP SOME SEGA RALLY BEFORE WE HEAD TO THE STATION.

HEY, LISTEN UP!

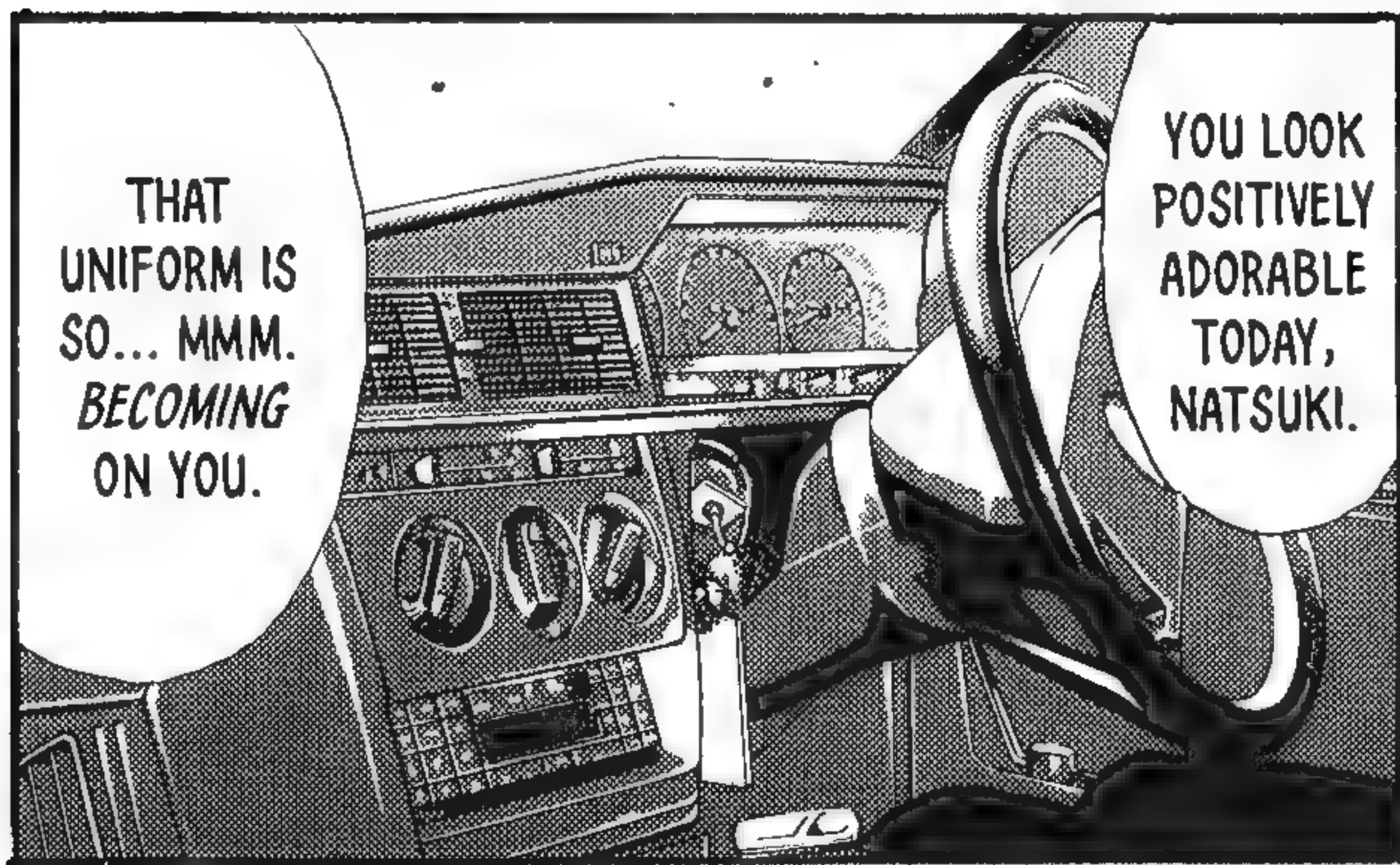
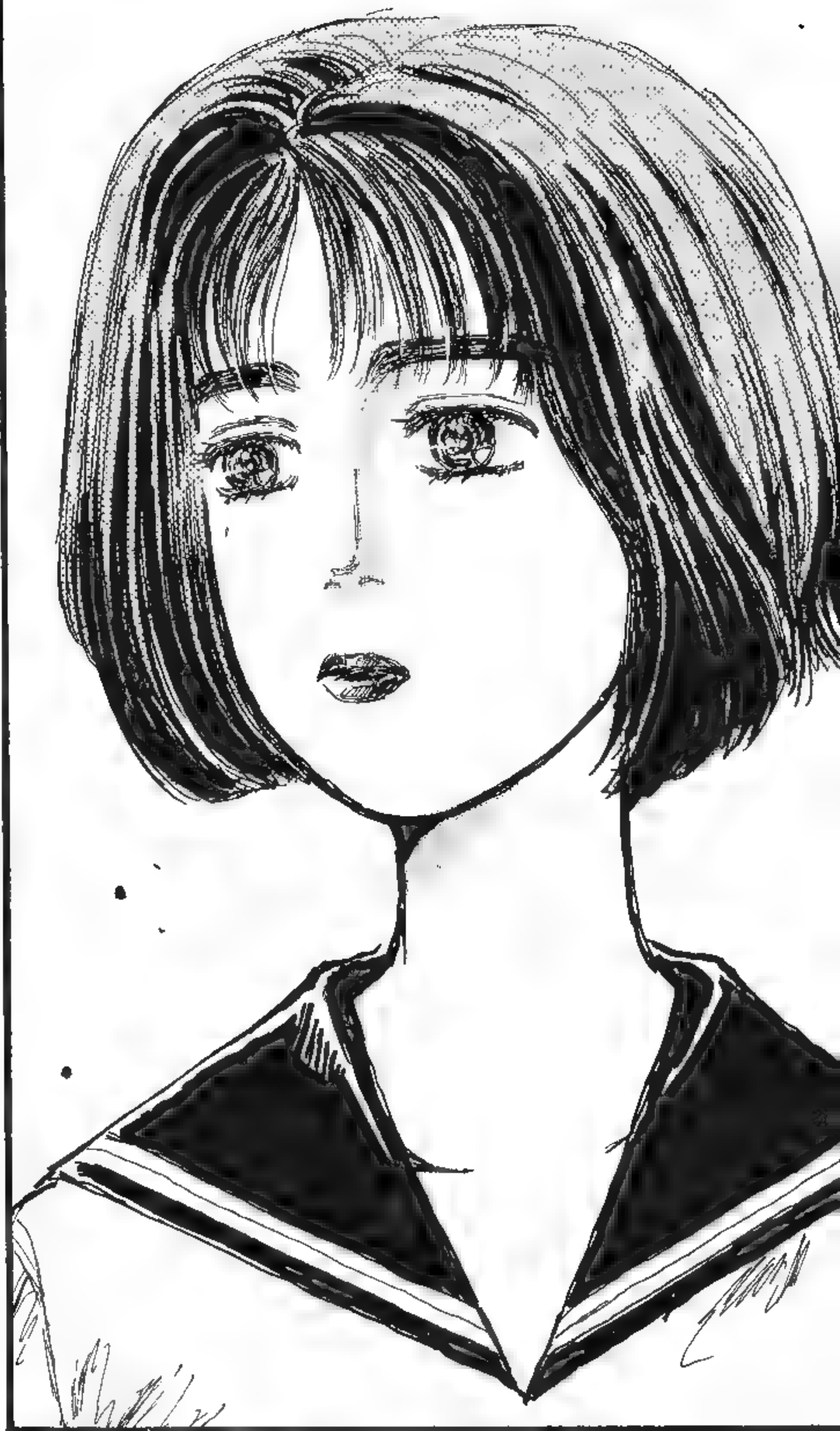


NOT THAT IT STOPS ME FROM GETTING HYPED ABOUT THEM!

TAKE IT FROM ME: THESE GAMES ARE NOTHING LIKE DRIVING A REAL CAR!



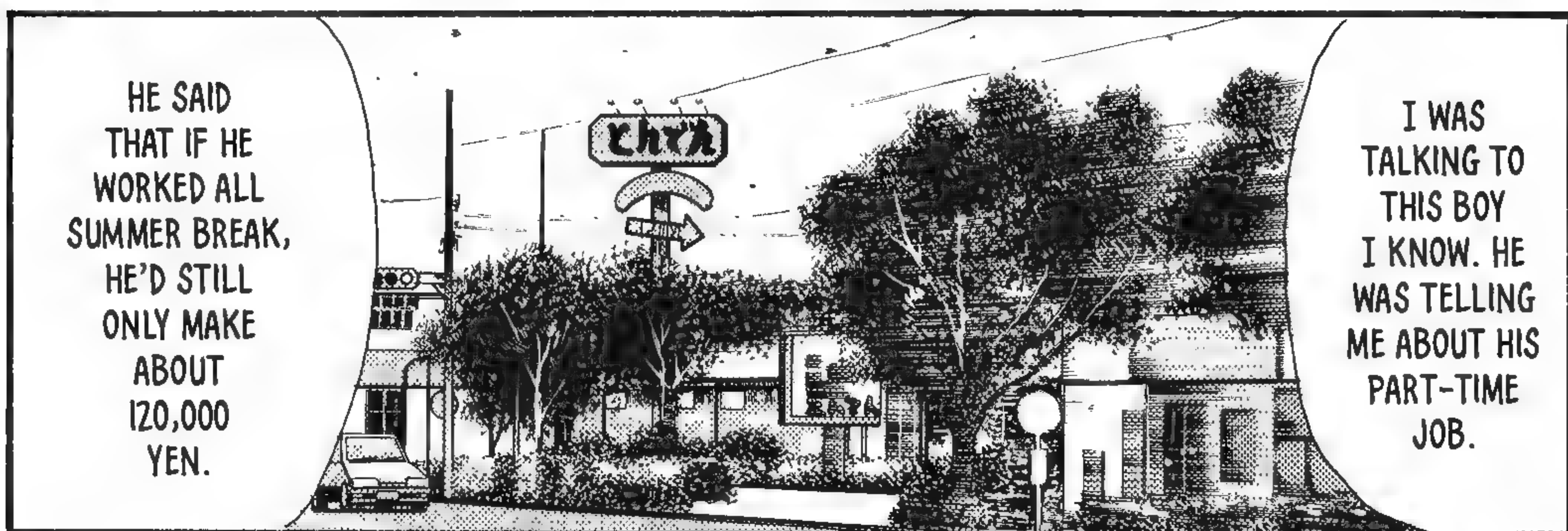








DADDY,  
I HAVE A  
QUESTION.



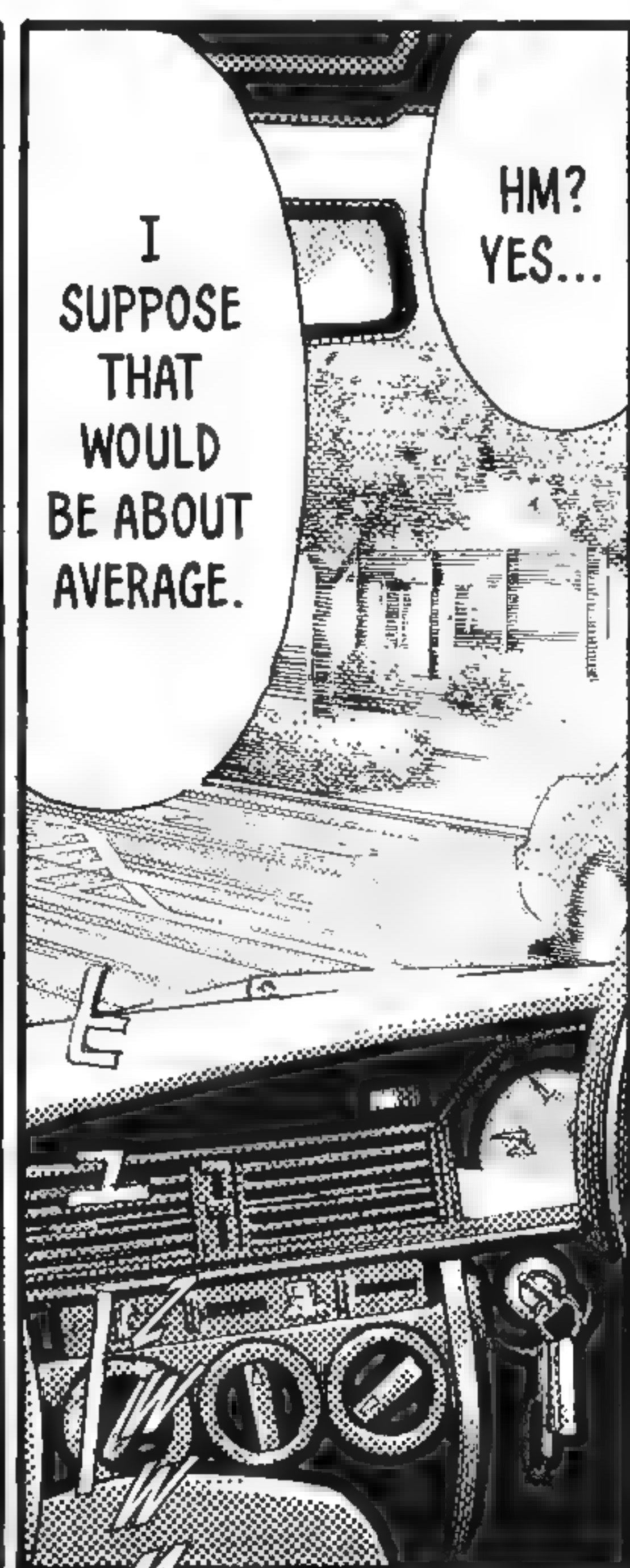
HE SAID  
THAT IF HE  
WORKED ALL  
SUMMER BREAK,  
HE'D STILL  
ONLY MAKE  
ABOUT  
120,000  
YEN.

I WAS  
TALKING TO  
THIS BOY  
I KNOW. HE  
WAS TELLING  
ME ABOUT HIS  
PART-TIME  
JOB.



YOU GIVE  
ME 300,000  
YEN, AND ALL  
I DO IS GO TO  
A HOTEL WITH  
YOU A FEW  
TIMES  
A MONTH.

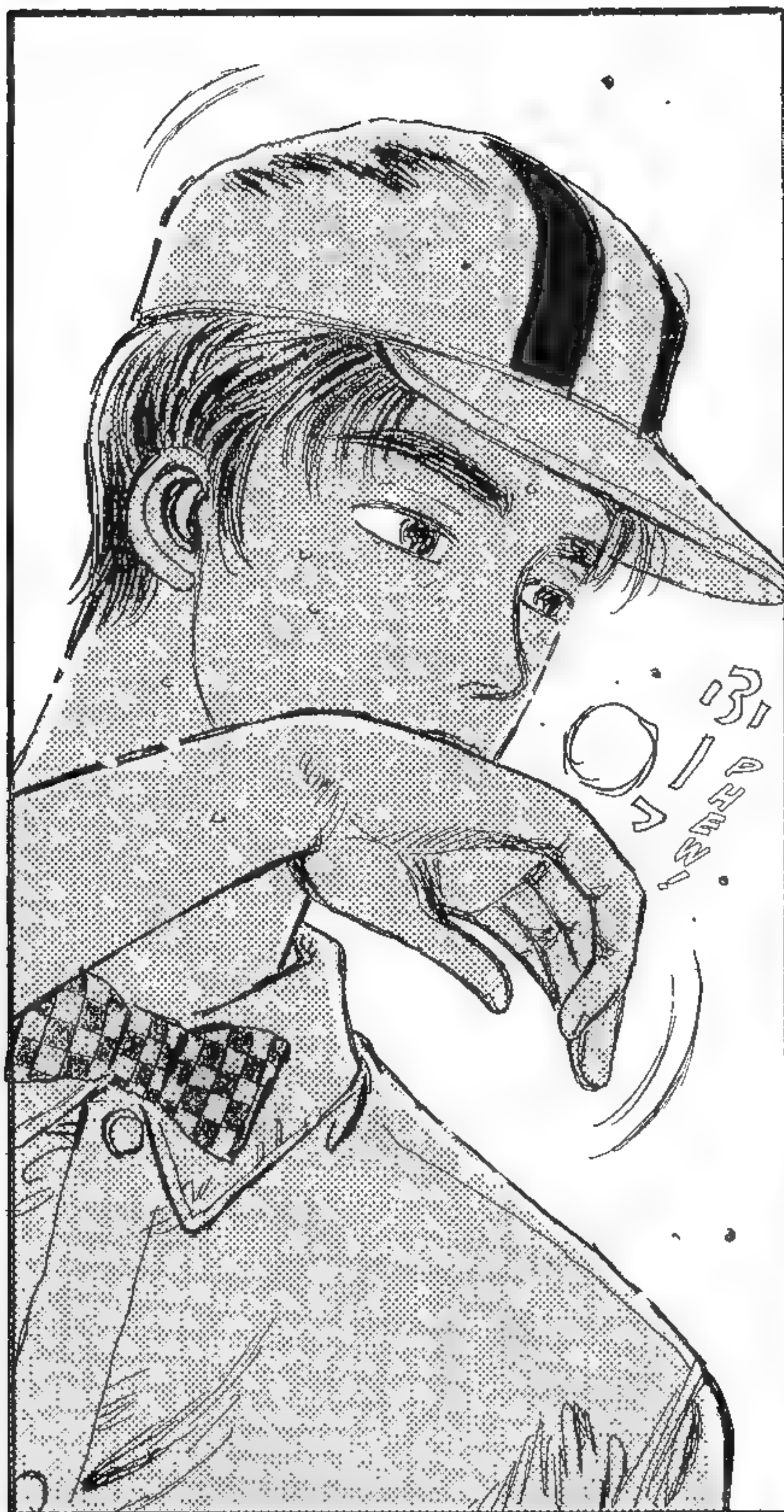
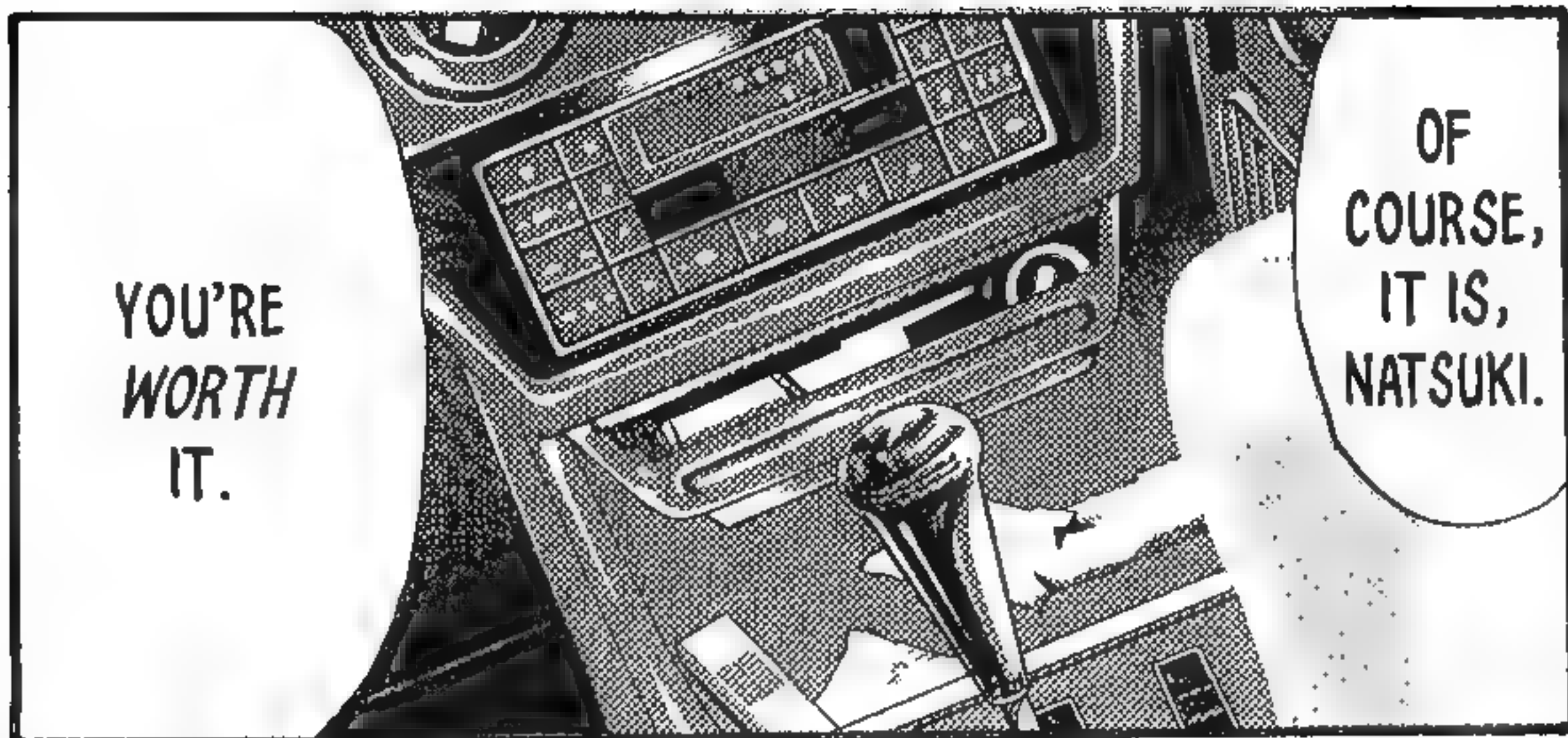
I DIDN'T  
REALIZE MAKING  
MONEY WAS  
THAT HARD.



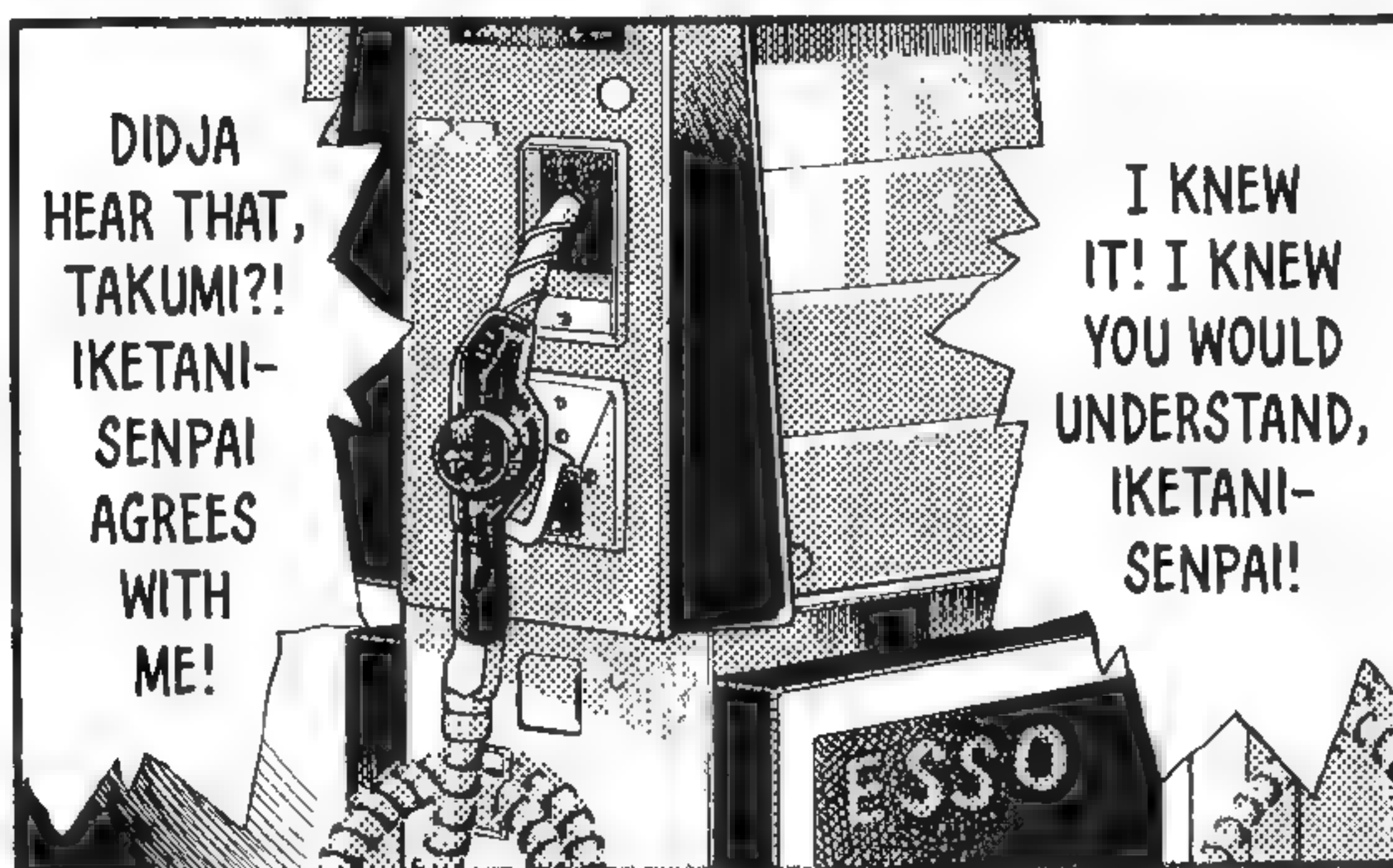
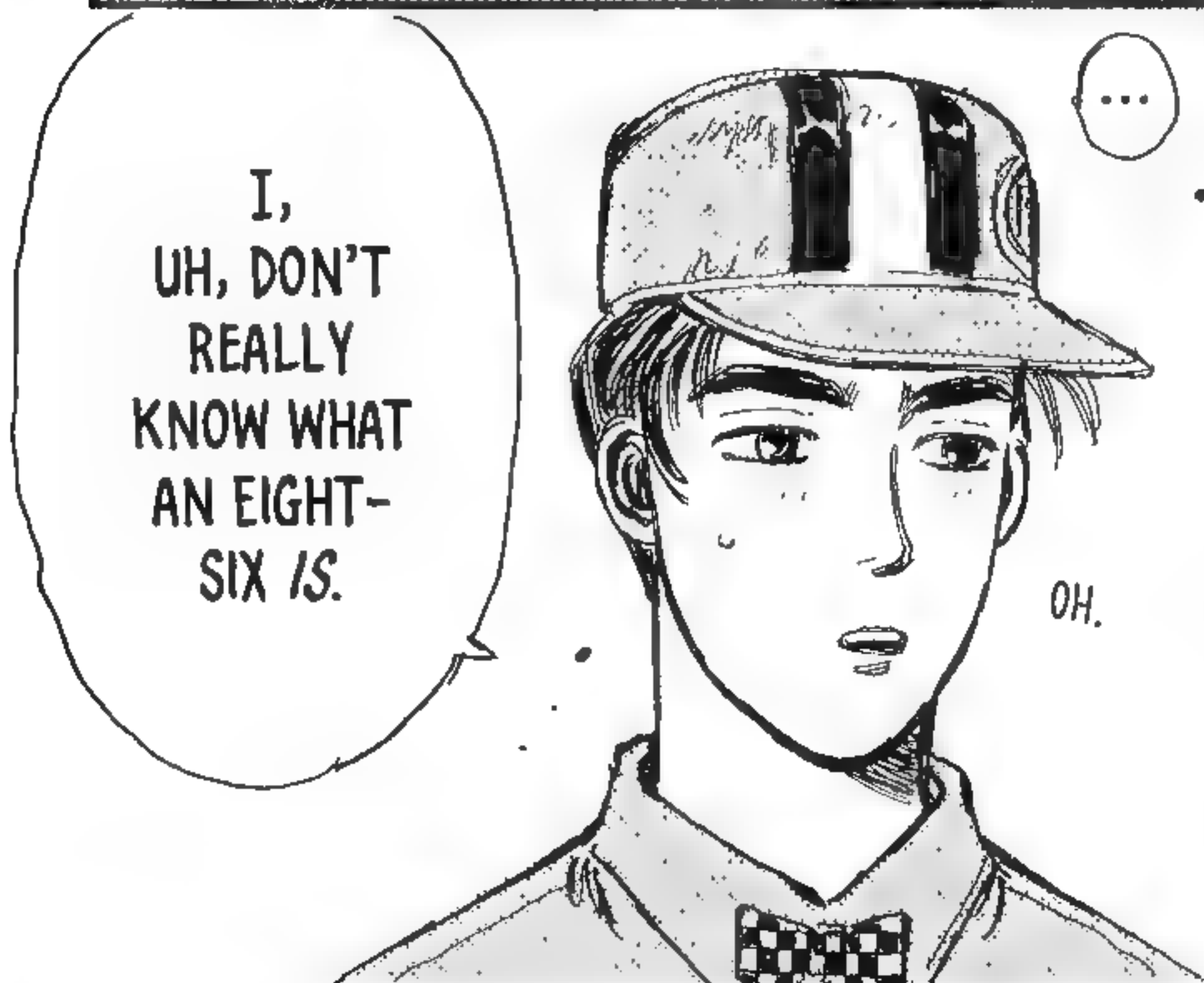
I  
SUPPOSE  
THAT  
WOULD  
BE ABOUT  
AVERAGE.

HM?  
YES...

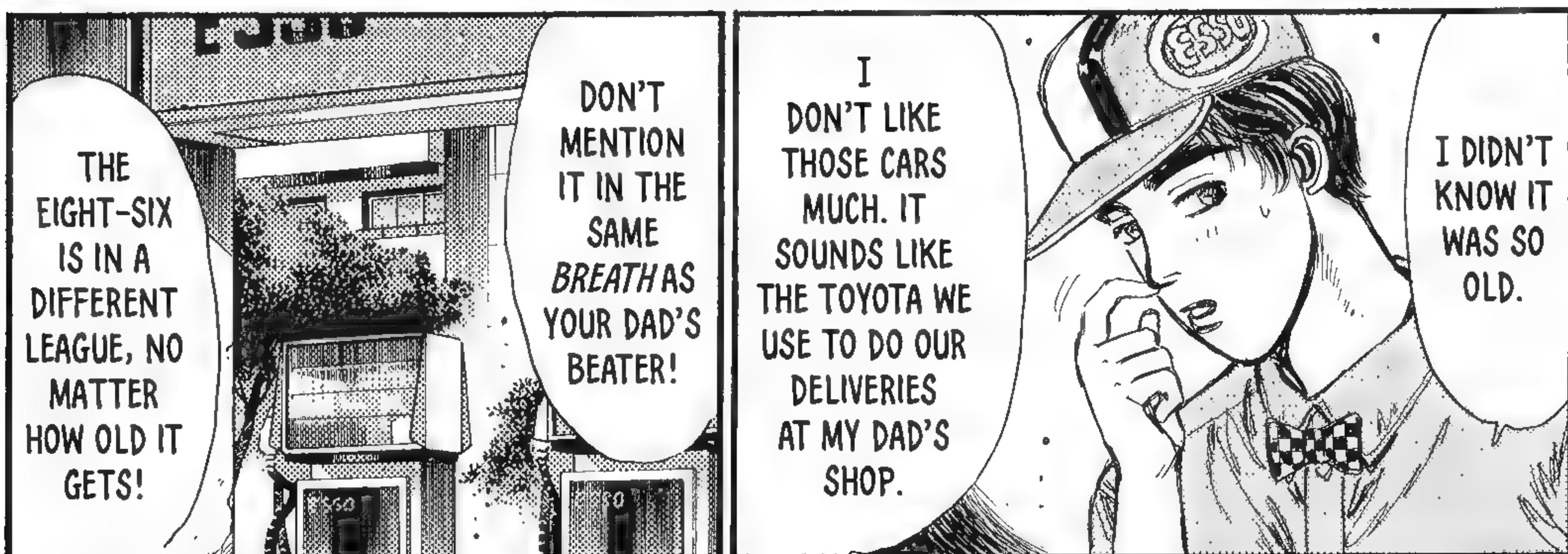








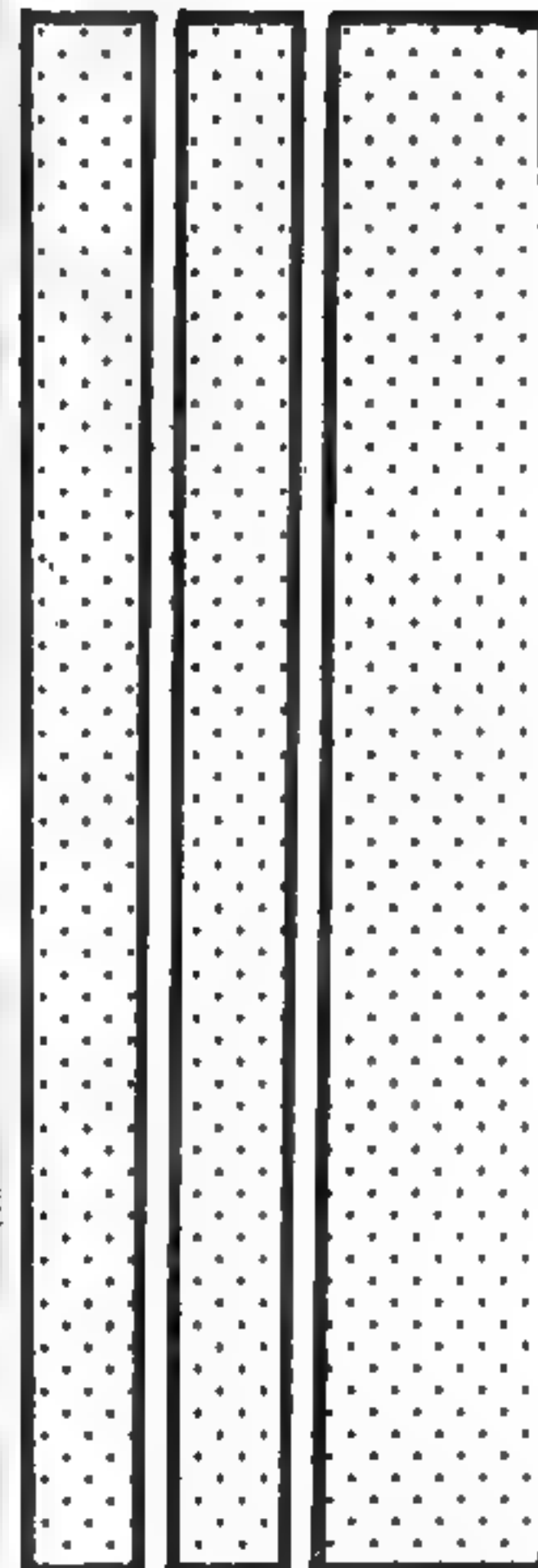












SO, WHICH  
MOUNTAIN  
ARE WE  
TEARING  
UP  
TONIGHT?

GOT THE  
RACING  
BUG, HAVE  
YOU?



SURE  
THING!  
I'LL  
PICK YOU  
UP AT  
THE BUS  
STOP AT  
EIGHT.

OKAY,  
WE'LL  
SEE YOU  
TONIGHT,  
IKETANI-  
SENPAI!



IT JUST SO  
HAPPENS THAT  
OUR TEAM IS  
THE FASTEST ON  
MOUNT AKINA,  
AND WE'VE PUT  
OUT THE  
WORD.

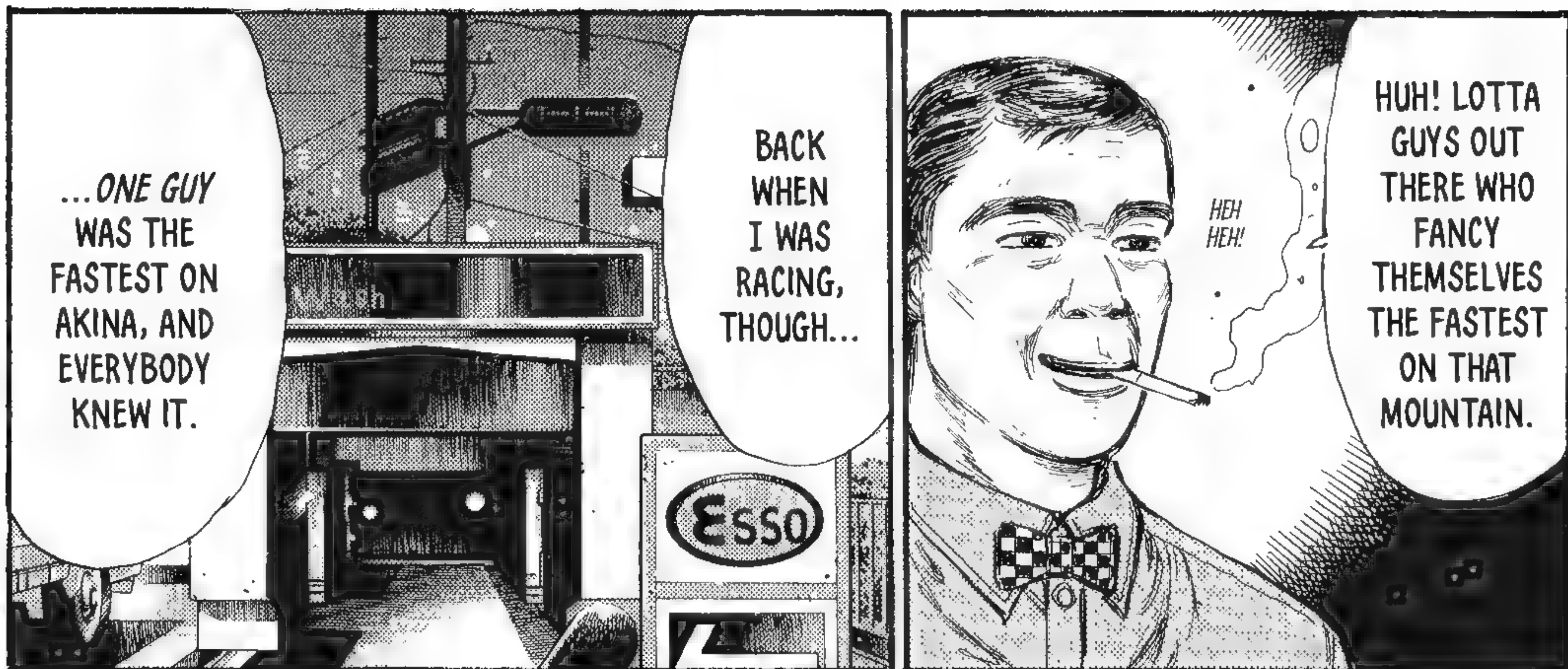


WE'RE  
HITTING  
MOUNT AKINA,  
OF COURSE.  
NOWHERE ELSE  
WORTH GOING  
AROUND  
HERE.

PLUS, IT'S  
ONLY TEN  
MINUTES  
AWAY.

OH,  
HEY,  
BOSS.





...ONE GUY  
WAS THE  
FASTEST ON  
AKINA, AND  
EVERYBODY  
KNEW IT.

BACK  
WHEN  
I WAS  
RACING,  
THOUGH...

HEH  
HEH!

HUH! LOTTA  
GUYS OUT  
THERE WHO  
FANCY  
THEMSELVES  
THE FASTEST  
ON THAT  
MOUNTAIN.



YOU'RE  
GONNA SAY  
IT WAS YOU?  
SPARE ME.

LEMME  
GUESS,  
BOSS.

PWF

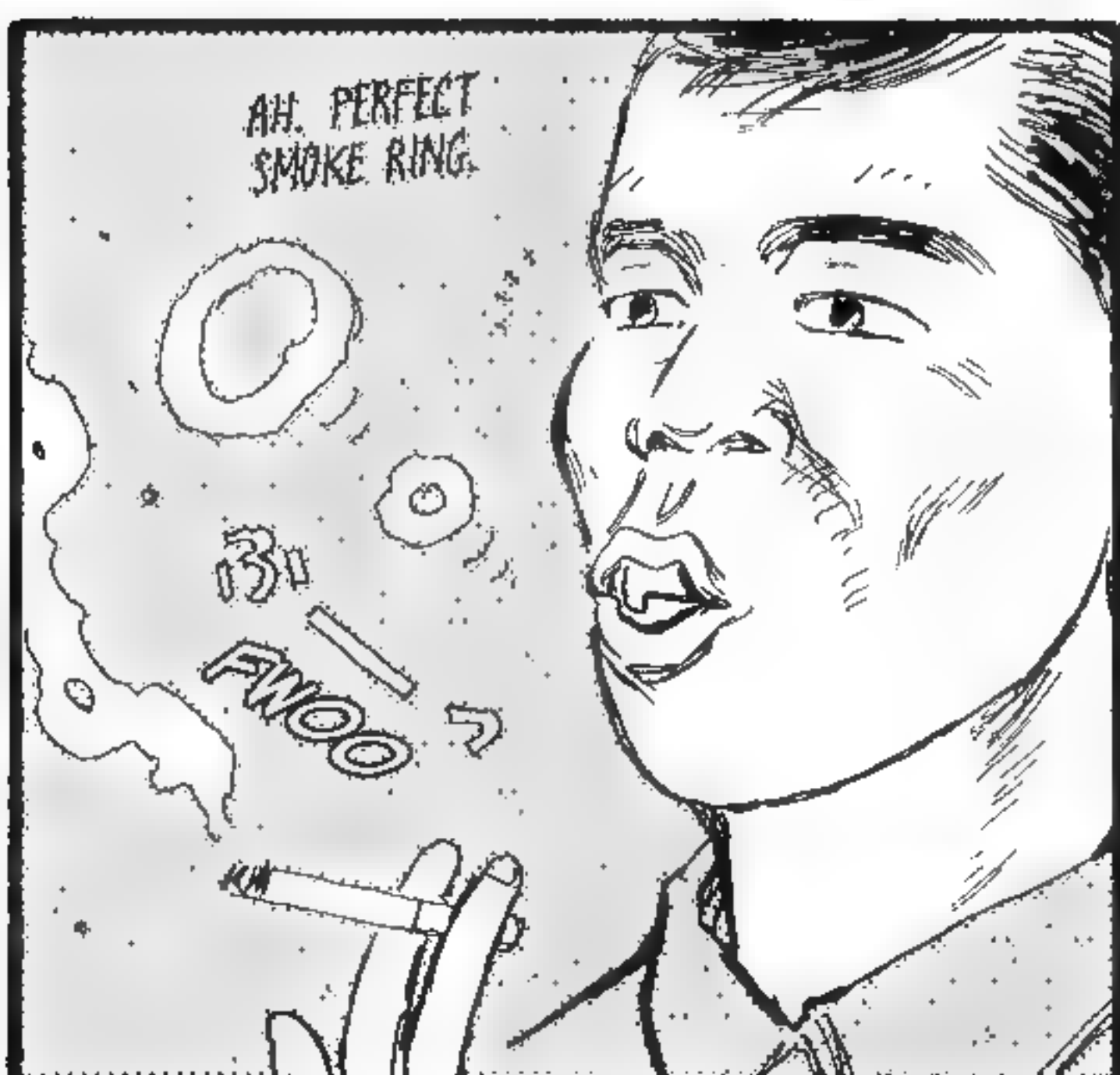


I KNOW MOST  
OF THE GUYS  
WHO RACE ON  
THAT MOUN-  
TAIN, BUT I'VE  
NEVER SEEN  
ANYONE FROM,  
UH, YOUR  
GENERATION  
AROUND.

WHAT,  
STILL?

HE'S STILL  
ON THE SCENE,  
TOO. RUNS  
AKINA EVERY  
NIGHT.

NO,  
DUMBASS!  
I'M TALKING  
ABOUT  
ANOTHER  
RACER.  
A REAL  
LEGEND.



AH. PERFECT  
SMOKE RING.

FWOO



AW,  
YOU KNOW  
THAT'S  
NOT WHAT  
I MEANT.

PFAH  
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA!

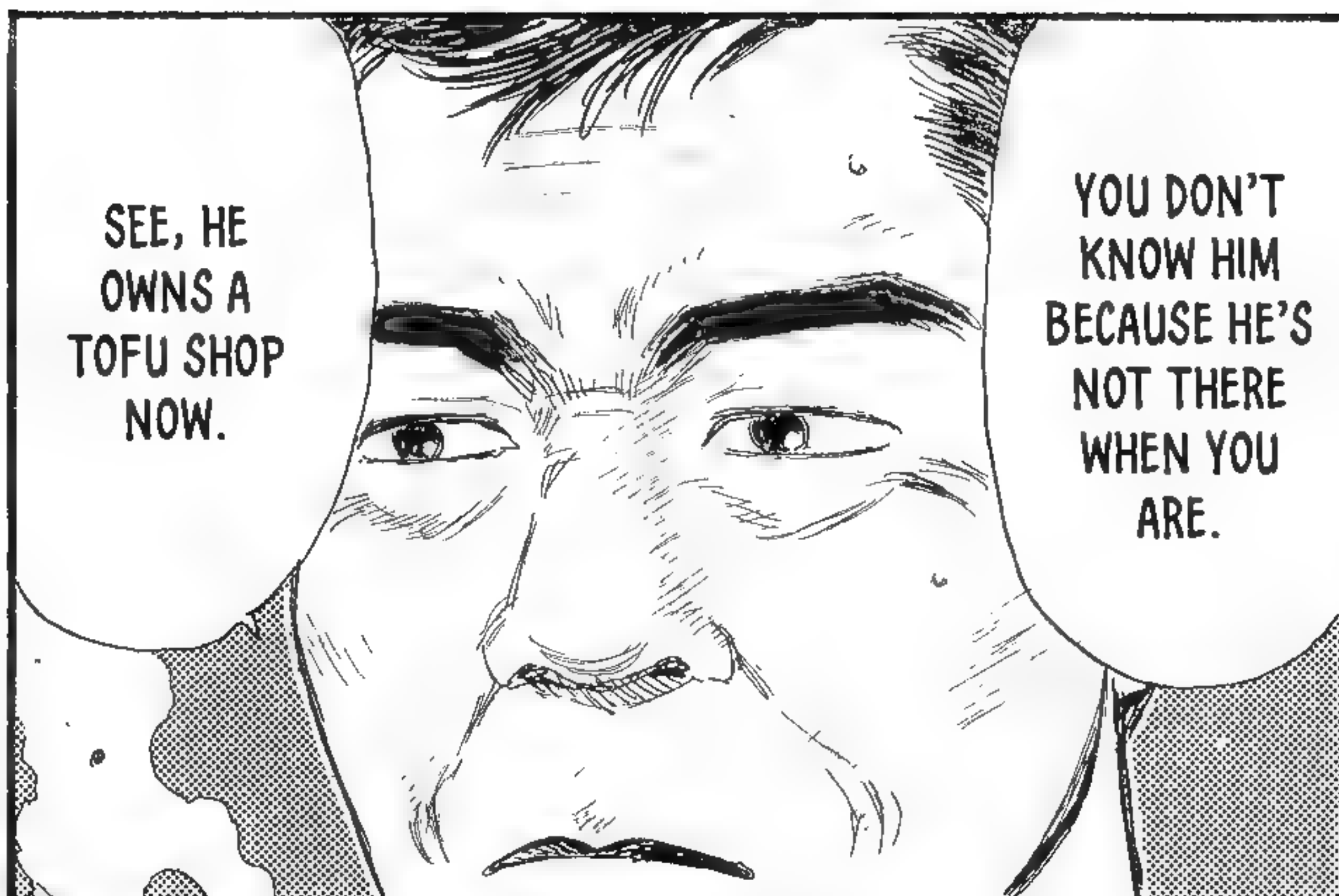
WELL,  
EXCUSE ME  
FOR BEING  
YOUTH  
CHALLENGED.





FROM  
TURNS  
TO  
TOFU?

A  
WHAT?



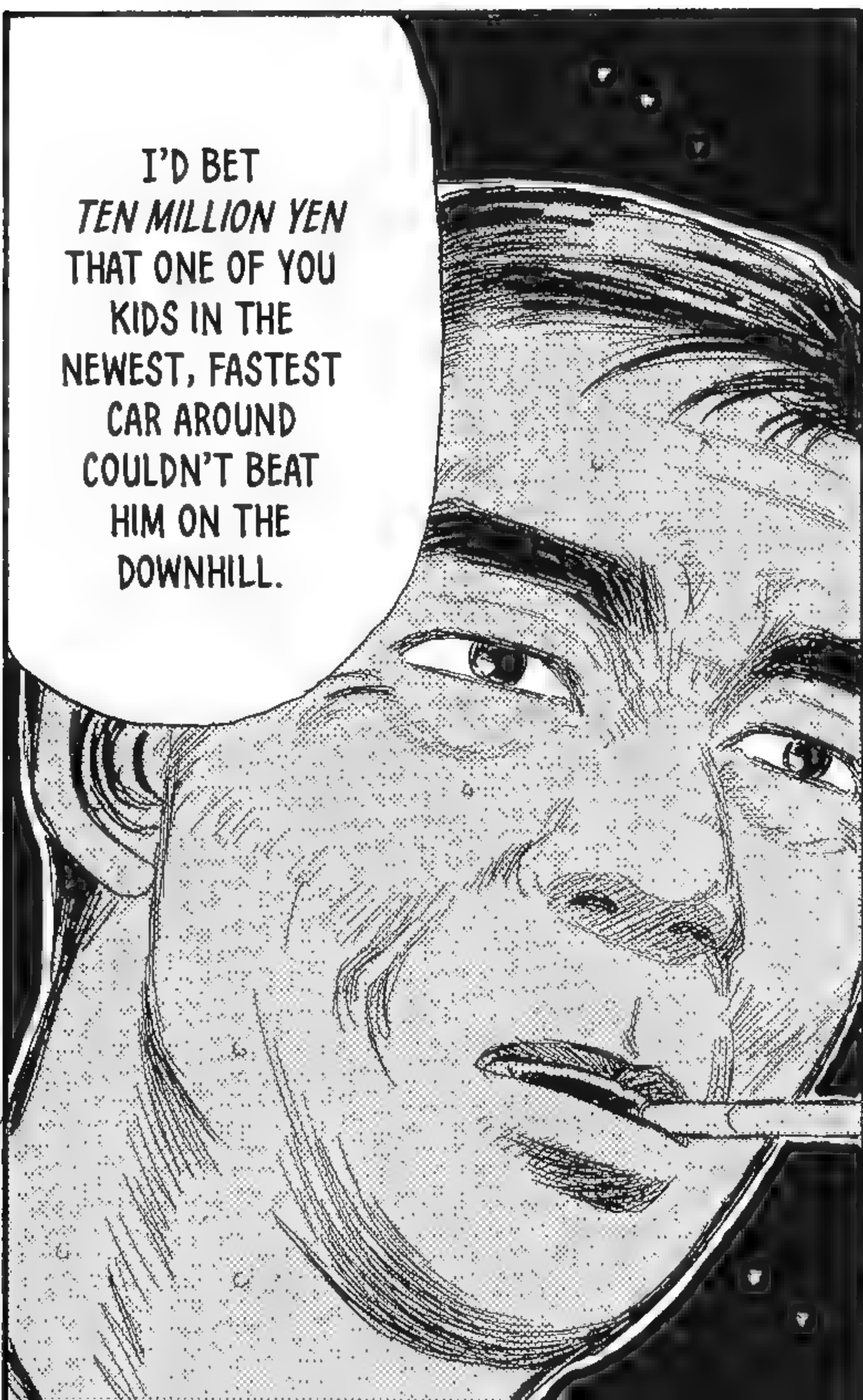
SEE, HE  
OWNS A  
TOFU SHOP  
NOW.

YOU DON'T  
KNOW HIM  
BECAUSE HE'S  
NOT THERE  
WHEN YOU  
ARE.

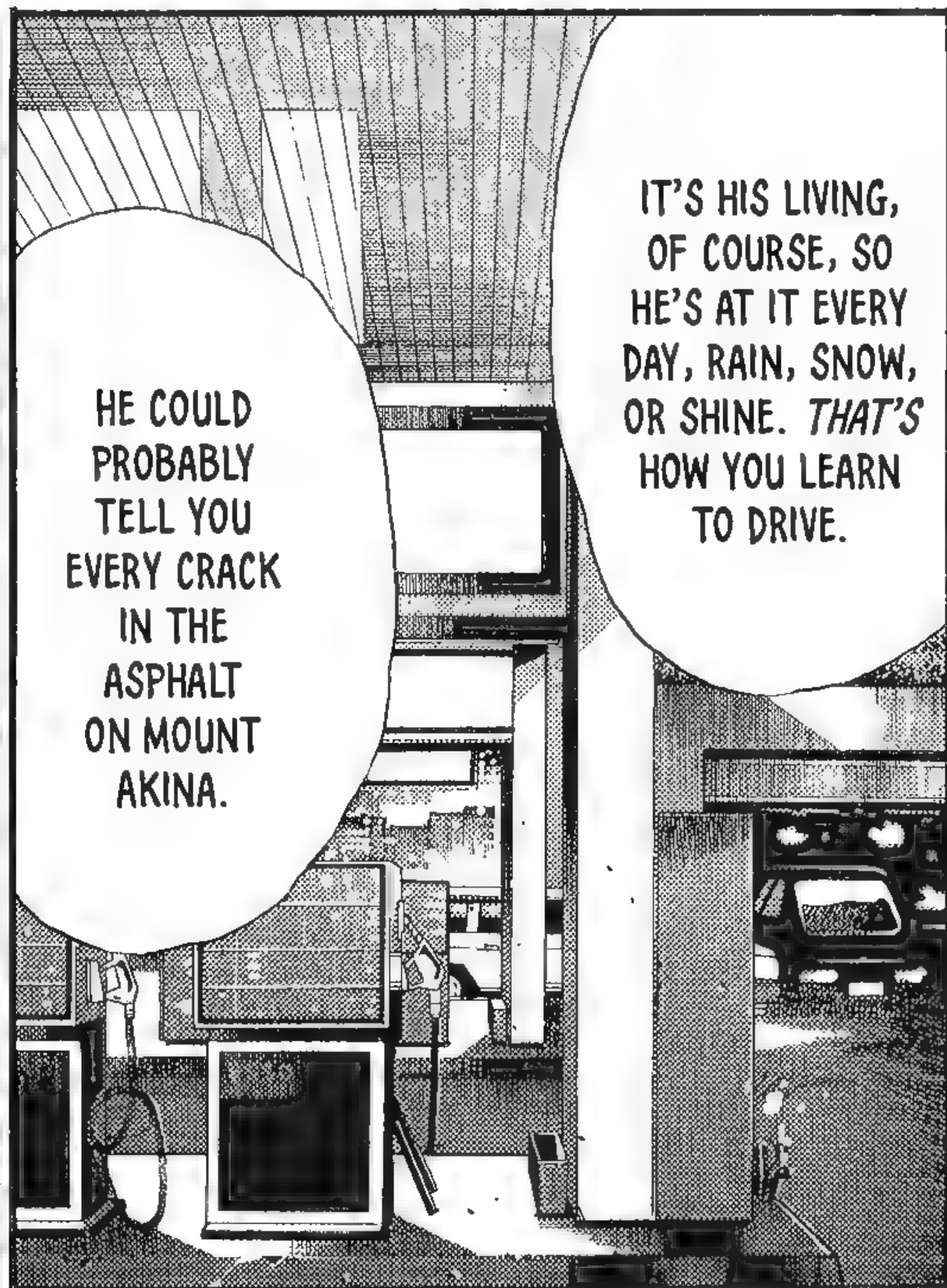


YOU SHOULD  
SEE HIM TEAR  
ASS BACK DOWN  
THE MOUNTAIN  
ONCE THAT  
CAR IS EMPTY!  
YOU'D DOUBT  
YOUR OWN  
EYES!

'ROUND ABOUT  
FOUR EVERY  
MORNING, HE  
LOADS HIS CAR  
WITH TOFU AND  
DELIVERS IT TO  
THE RESORT  
TOWN BY LAKE  
AKINA.



I'D BET  
TEN MILLION YEN  
THAT ONE OF YOU  
KIDS IN THE  
NEWEST, FASTEST  
CAR AROUND  
COULDN'T BEAT  
HIM ON THE  
DOWNHILL.



HE COULD  
PROBABLY  
TELL YOU  
EVERY CRACK  
IN THE  
ASPHALT  
ON MOUNT  
AKINA.

IT'S HIS LIVING,  
OF COURSE, SO  
HE'S AT IT EVERY  
DAY, RAIN, SNOW,  
OR SHINE. *THAT'S*  
HOW YOU LEARN  
TO DRIVE.





TAKE IT FROM ME:  
THE FASTEST CAR ON  
AKINA IS THE EIGHT-  
SIX FROM THAT TOFU  
SHOP!



ERK...

DO YOU  
MEAN IT,  
BOSS?  
ABOUT  
THAT  
BET?



DID  
YOU SAY  
EIGHT-  
SIX?!



COME ON,  
BOSS...

A  
HUNDRED K!  
YOU CAN  
HOLD ME  
TO THAT!



...  
P  
O  
N  
D  
E  
R



SERIOUS-  
LY?!

WELL...  
MAYBE A  
MILLION.



...AFTER  
FINALS  
ARE  
OVER,  
'KAY?

LET'S  
ALL  
HANG  
OUT  
SOME-  
WHERE...

NATSUKI  
MOGI...

WHY'S SHE  
WANT TO  
TALK TO ME  
NOW?

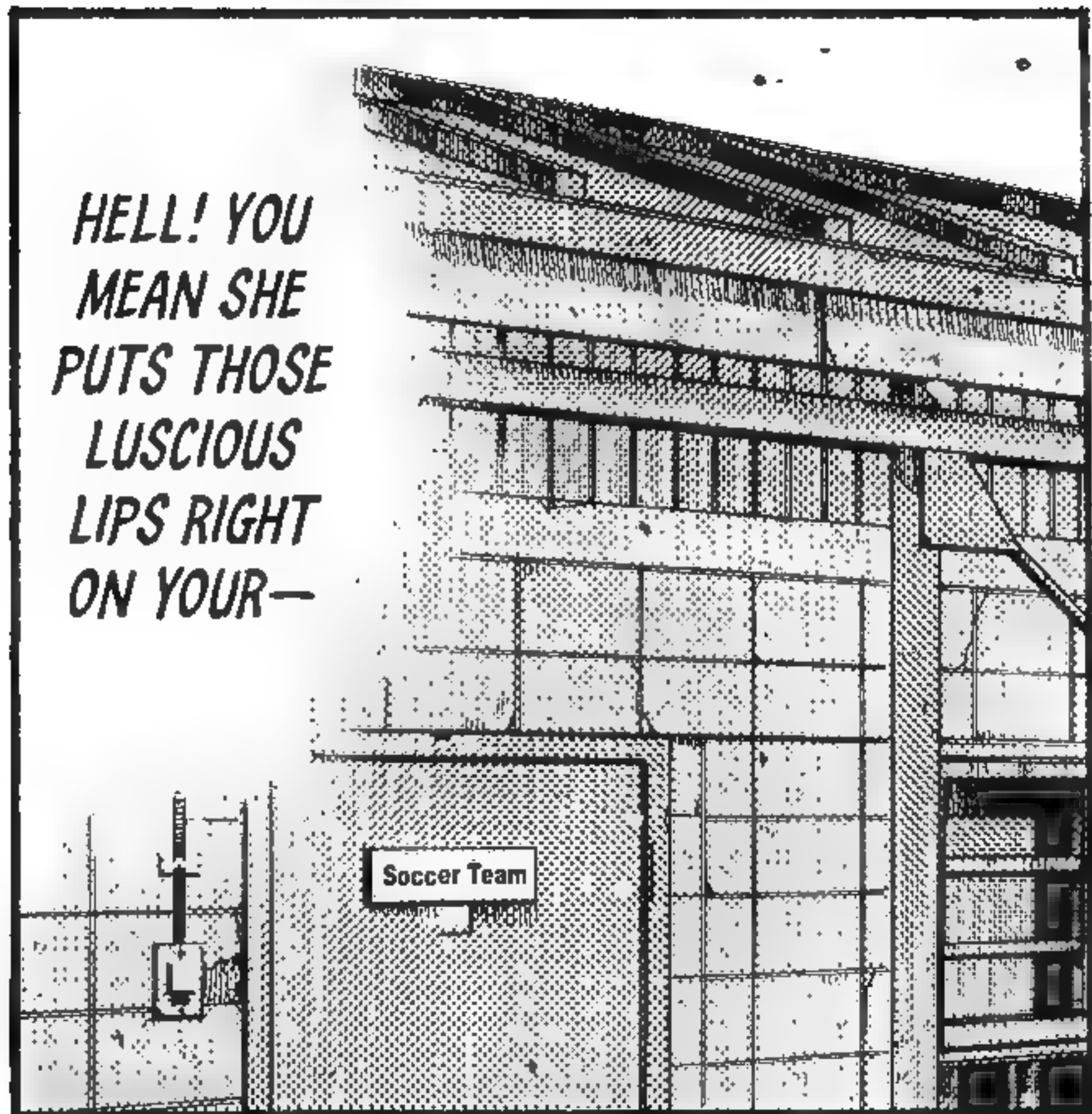
CAN'T  
BLAME YOU  
FOR BEING  
JEALOUS.

SHOULDA  
KNOWN WE  
COULDN'T  
PUT ONE  
OVER ON THE  
SOCCER TEAM'S  
SMOOTHEST  
PLAYBOY!

THE  
MANAGER?  
DAMN!  
EVERYONE  
ON THE TEAM  
WAS AFTER  
HER!

YOU GOT  
WITH  
MOGI?



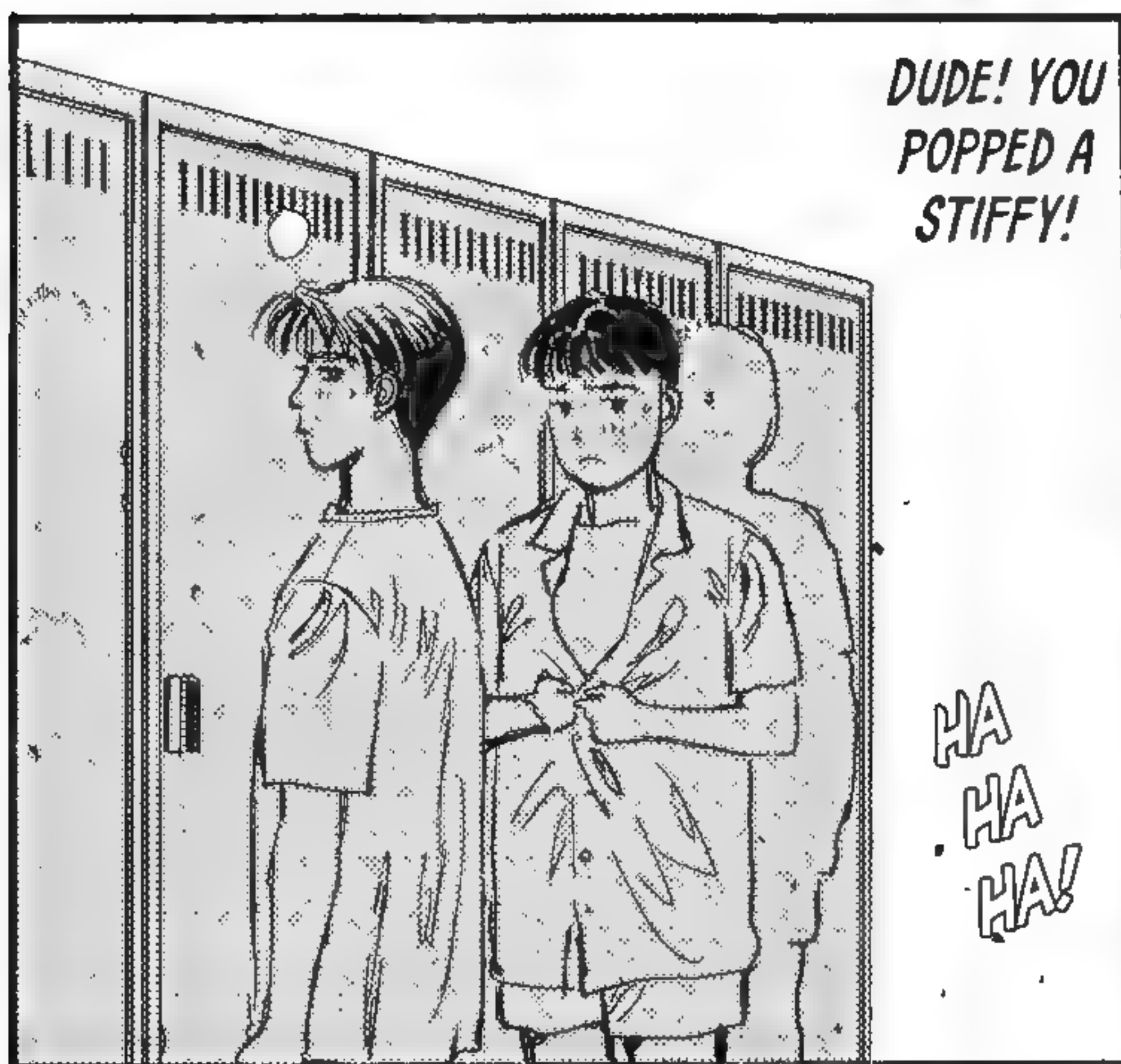


HELL! YOU  
MEAN SHE  
PUTS THOSE  
LUSCIOUS  
LIPS RIGHT  
ON YOUR—

AND SHE'S  
GOTTEN  
WAY  
BETTER  
AT GIVING  
HEAD.  
I MAKE  
SURE SHE  
GETS  
PLENTY OF  
PRACTICE!

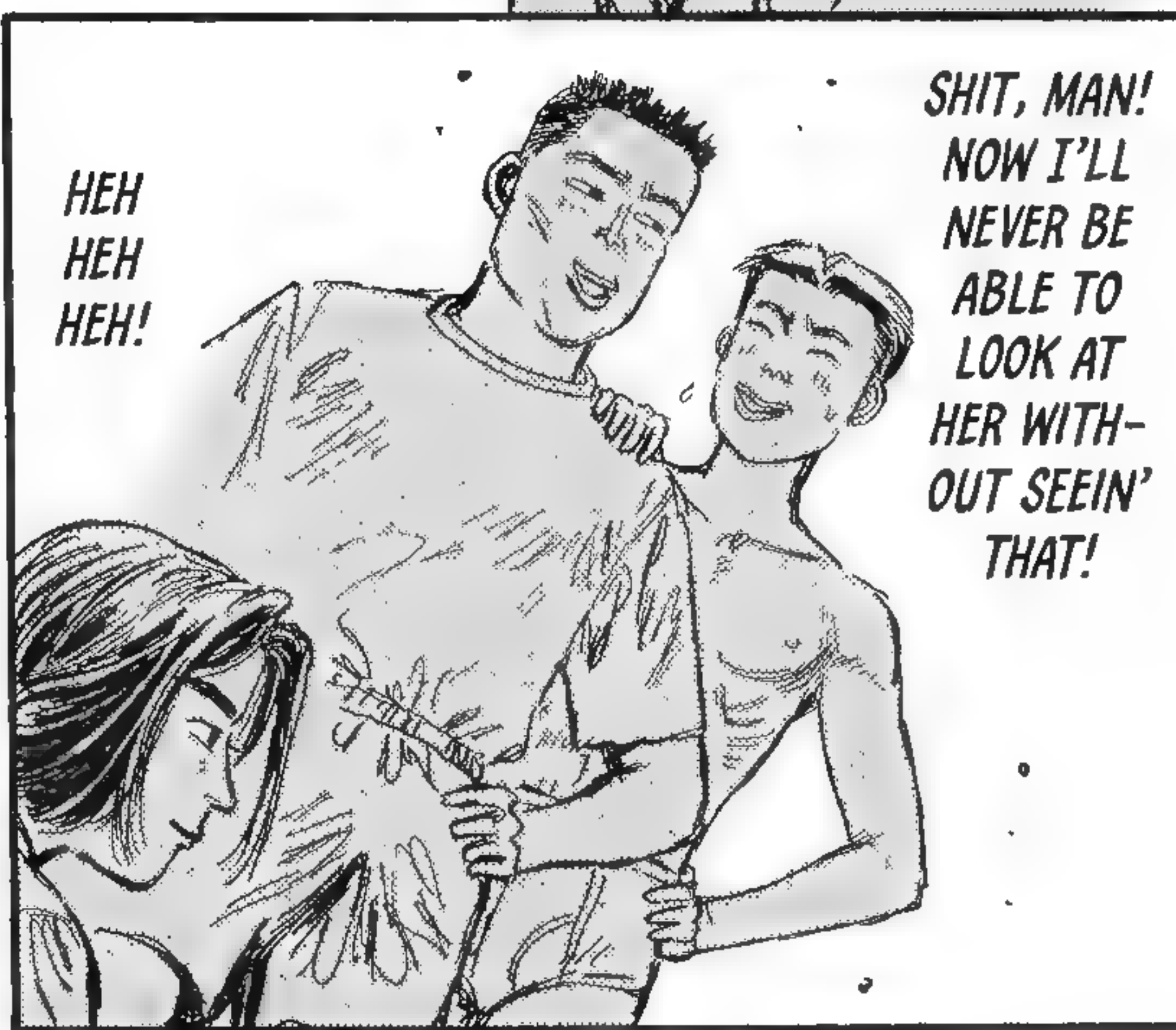


NATSUKI'S  
HOT AS  
HELL.



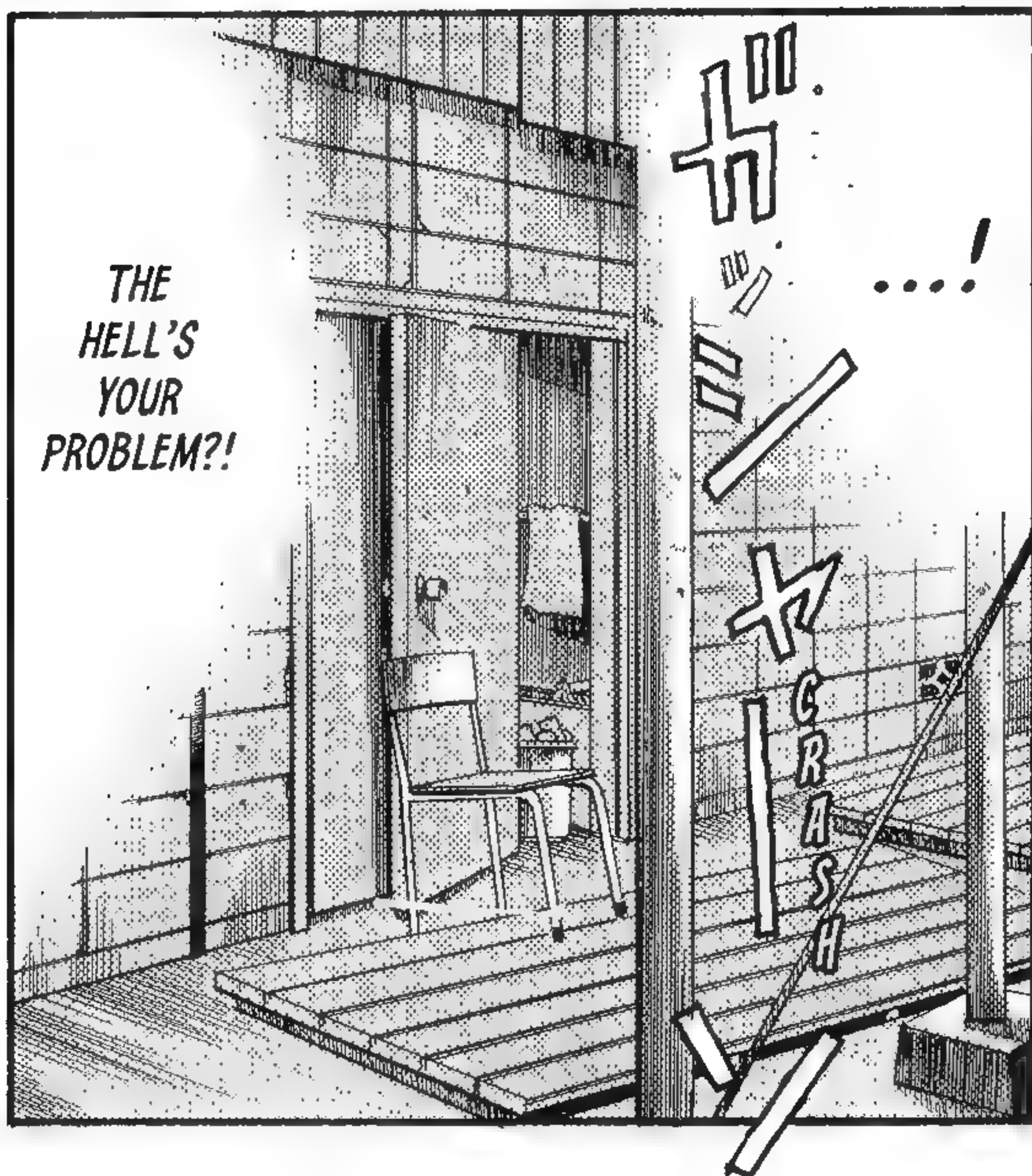
DUDE! YOU  
POPPED A  
STIFFY!

HA  
HA  
HA!



HEH  
HEH  
HEH!

SHIT, MAN!  
NOW I'LL  
NEVER BE  
ABLE TO  
LOOK AT  
HER WITH-  
OUT SEEIN'  
THAT!



THE  
HELL'S  
YOUR  
PROBLEM?!

CRASH



YOU KNOW,  
THE OTHER  
DAY I  
BROUGHT  
HER UP ON  
THE ROOF,  
THEN I  
REACHED  
RIGHT UP  
HER SKIRT  
AND—

THE THING ABOUT  
GIRLS—THEY  
LIKE TO PLAY  
HARD TO GET,  
BUT THEY  
SECRETLY  
WANT IT!



KEEP YOUR  
WOMANIZING  
BULLSHIT TO  
YOURSELF.  
NOBODY WANTS  
TO HEAR THAT  
CRAP!

KNOCK  
IT THE  
HELL OFF  
ALREADY!



NOW  
STAND  
UP!



YOU'RE  
DAMN  
RIGHT IT  
IS!

IS THAT  
HOW YOU  
TALK TO  
AN UPPER-  
CLASS-  
MAN?!

SCREW  
YOU,  
TAKUMI!

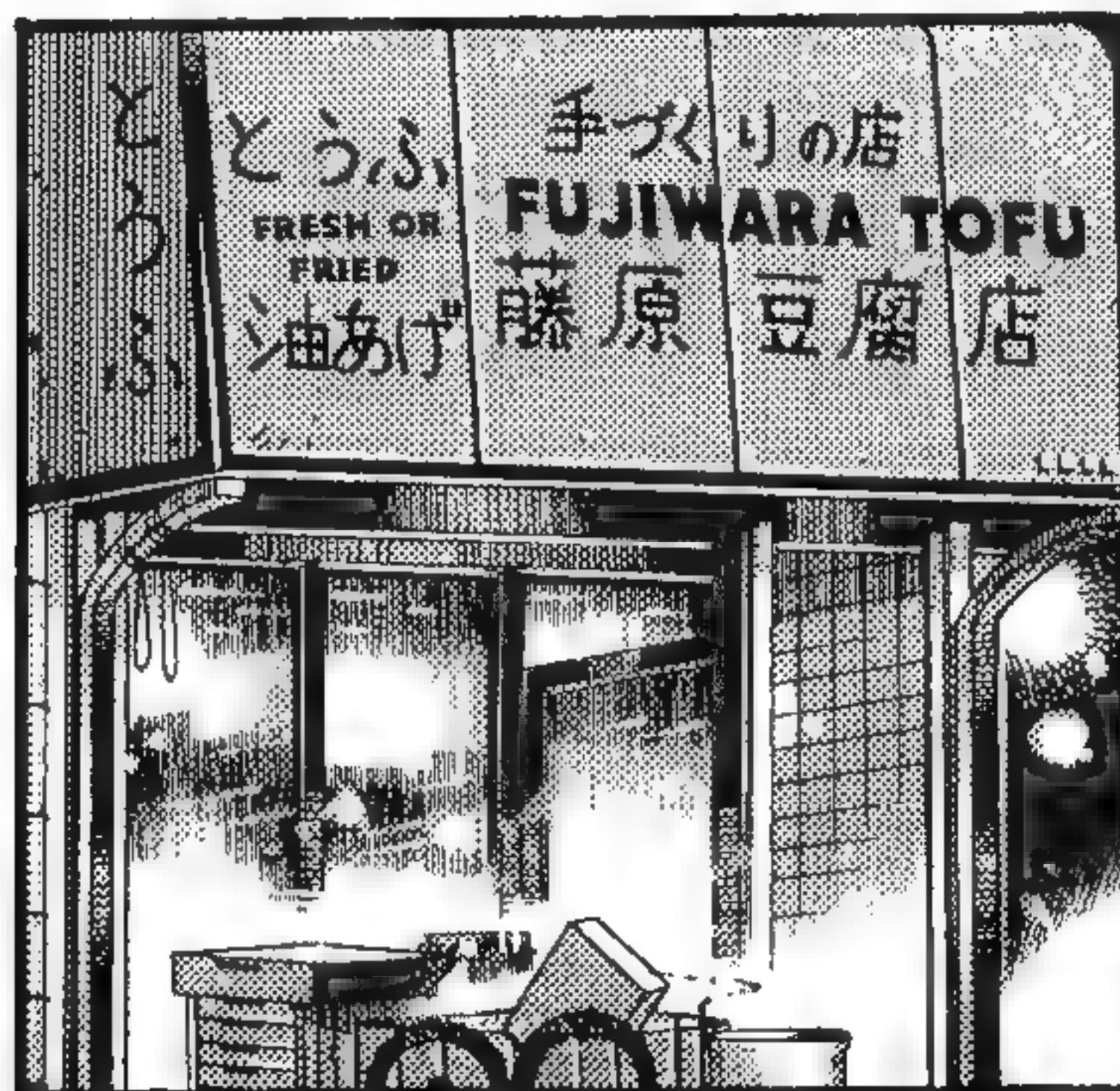
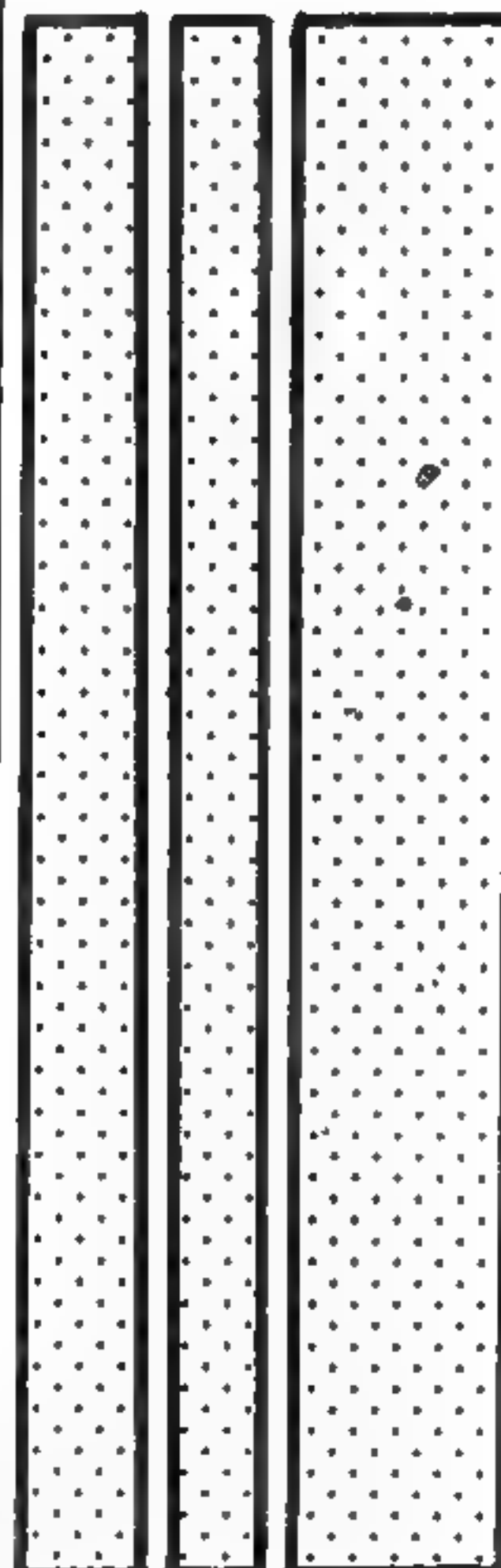




NEXT THING  
I KNEW, HIS  
FACE WAS  
BLOODY, AND  
MY FIST WAS  
BROKEN.



I COMPLETELY  
LOST MY HEAD  
THAT AFTER-  
NOON. DIDN'T  
EVEN KNOW  
WHAT I WAS  
DOING.



NOW  
I WONDER  
WHY I DID  
IT.

WHEN'D  
IT GET  
SO LATE?

OOPS.



I  
WASN'T  
EVEN  
REALLY  
INTO MOGI  
OR ANY-  
THING.

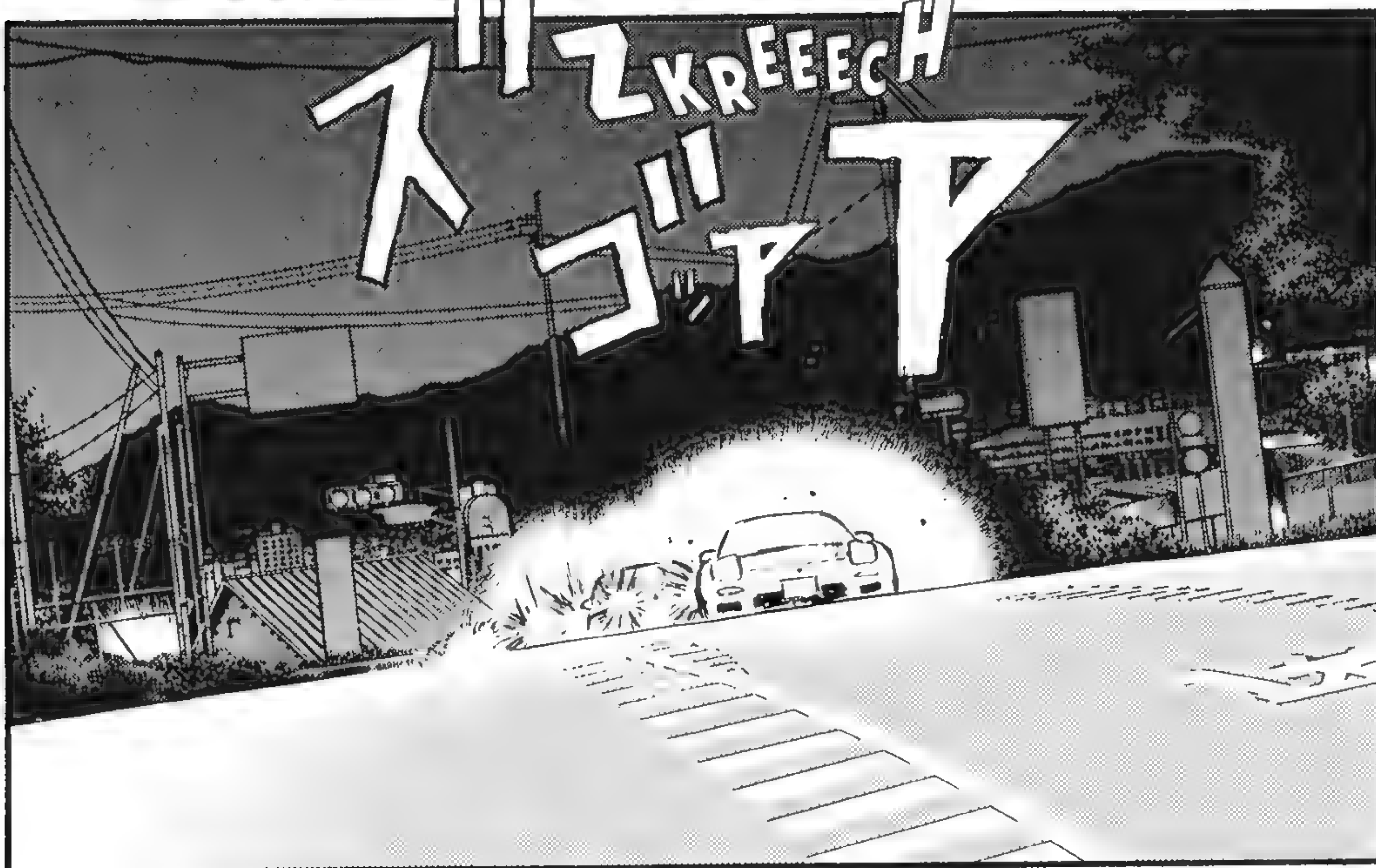
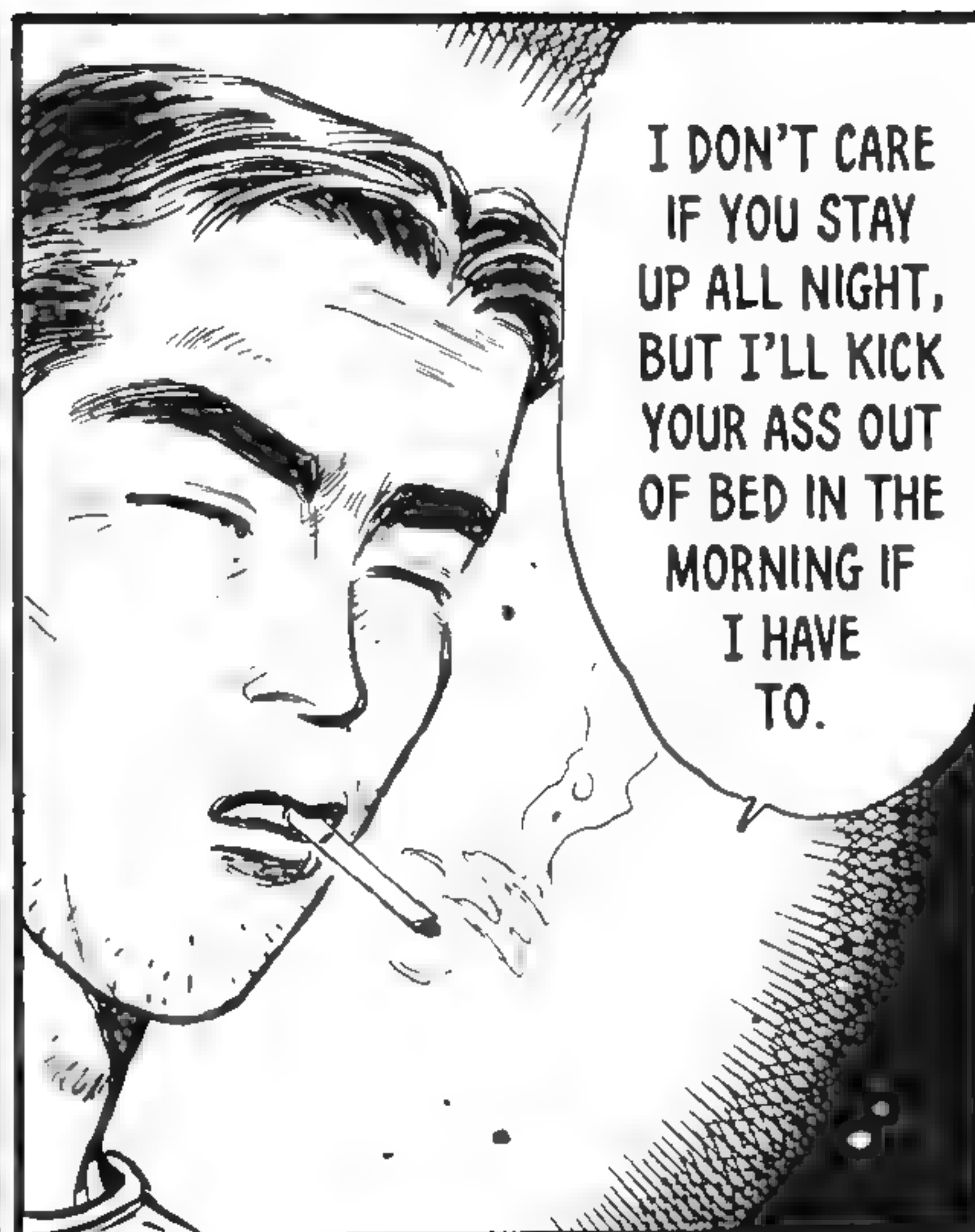


I GUESS.  
I TOLD  
ITSUKI  
I'D MEET  
HIM.

GOIN'  
OUT?









...THERE'LL  
BE TROUBLE  
ON THAT HILL  
TONIGHT.

I  
THINK...

HT  
C  
E  
E  
S  
A  
A  
A

**THEY'RE  
AFTER A  
RACE.**

7  
HMM...

# SCREECH



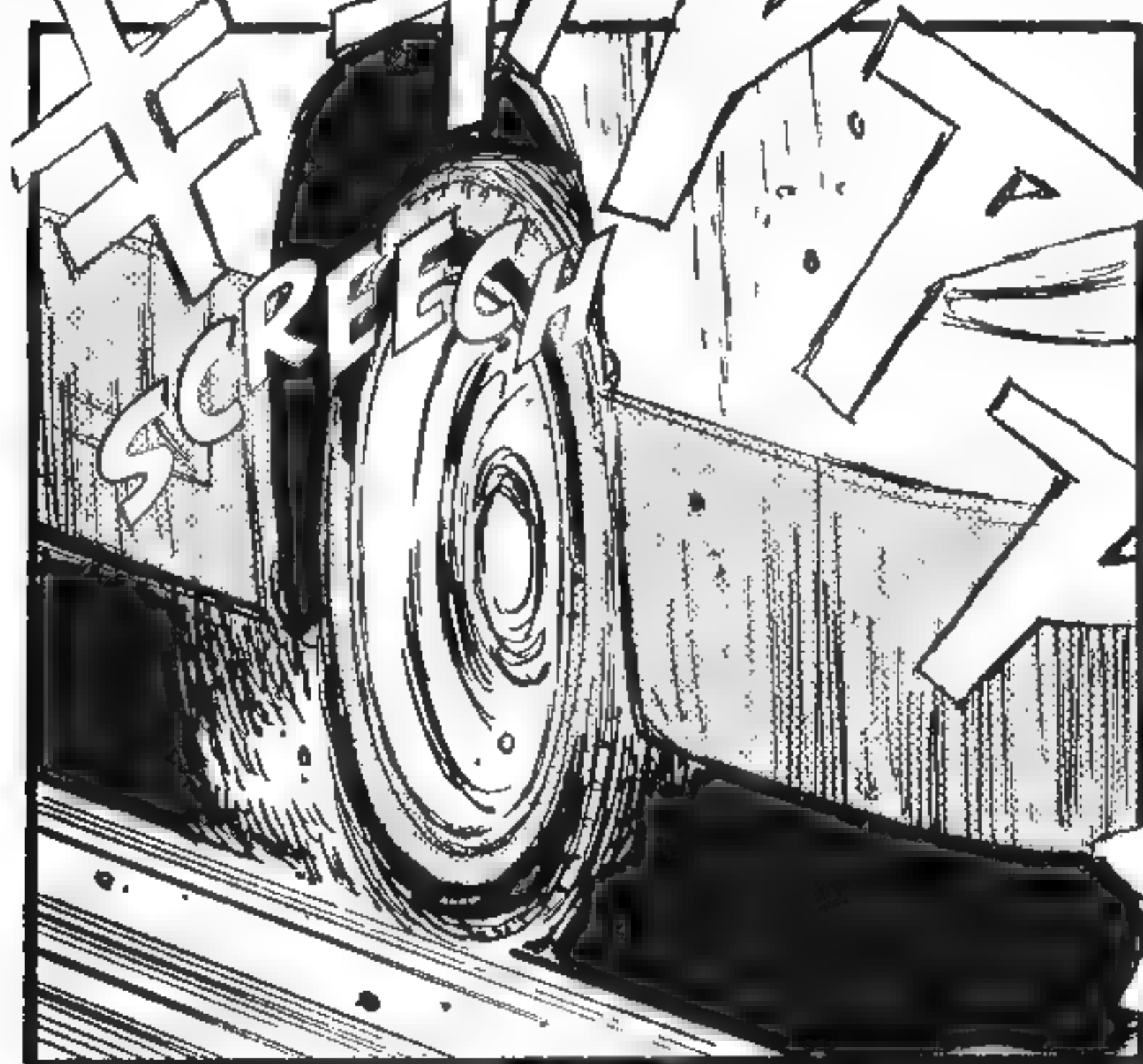




WHAT'M I  
SUPPOSED  
TO DO?!  
I'M SCARED  
SHITLESS!

DON'T  
SHOUT,  
TAKU-  
MI!

YOU'LL  
DISTRACT  
IKETANI-  
SENPA!



HERE  
COMES  
A SECOND-  
GEAR  
HAIRPIN!

BRACE  
YOUR-  
SELVES!



AW,  
EVERYONE  
FREAKS OUT  
A LITTLE THE  
FIRST TIME  
THEY RIDE  
WITH A REAL  
RACER!



At the  
summit  
of Mount  
Akina



SERI-  
OUSLY,  
TAKUMI,  
SHUT  
IT!

SCREW  
YOU!

SLOW  
DOWN!





OOF...



I CUT LOOSE 'CAUSE I THOUGHT YOU COULD TAKE IT. I DIDN'T MEAN TO, LIKE, TERRIFY YOU.

AW. POOR BABY.

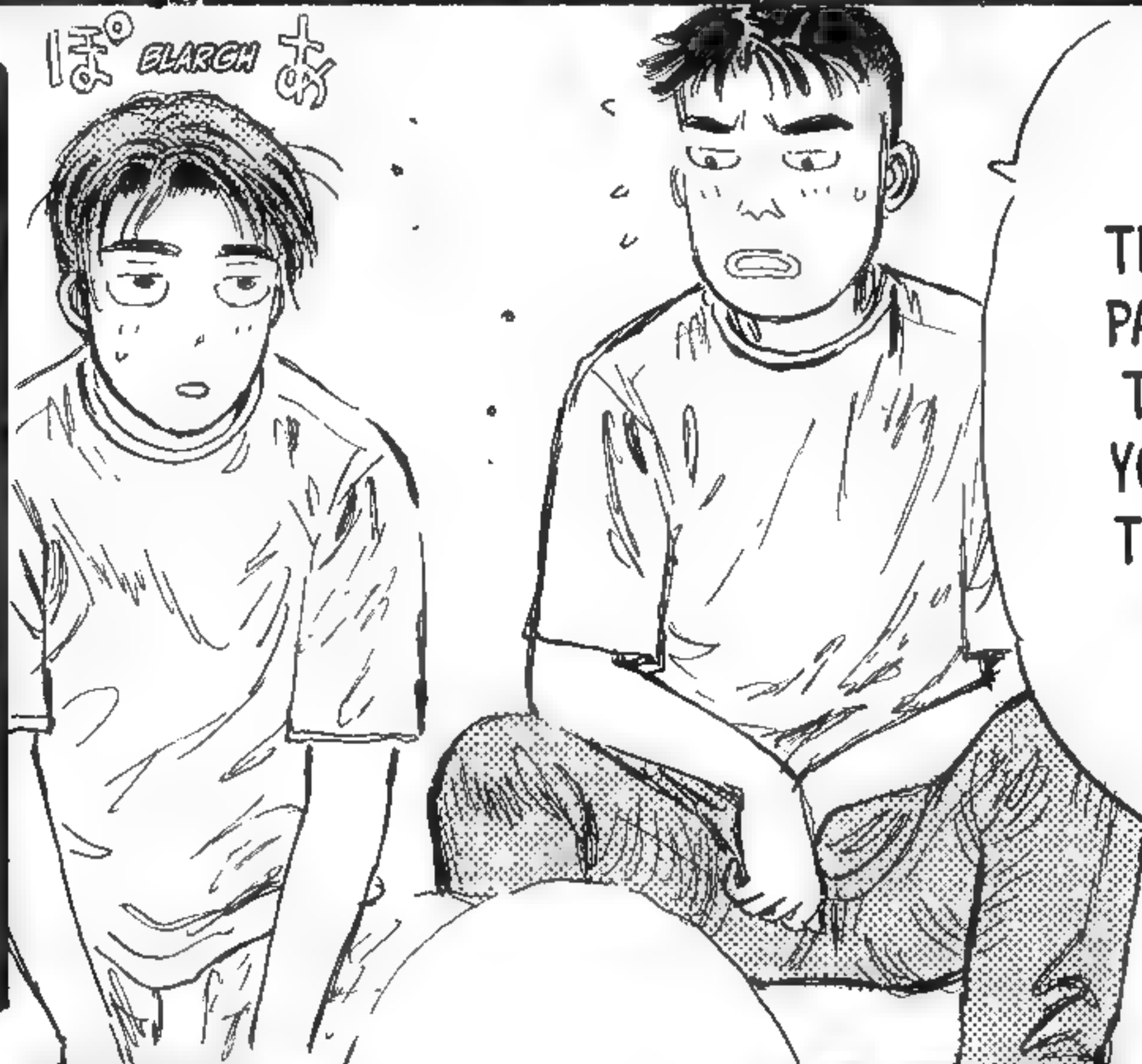
HEARD HE GOT CARSICK!

YOU OKAY, TAKUMI?



I'LL BET YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO LOSE THEIR MINDS ON ROLLER COASTERS.

YOU CALL YOURSELF A MAN?!

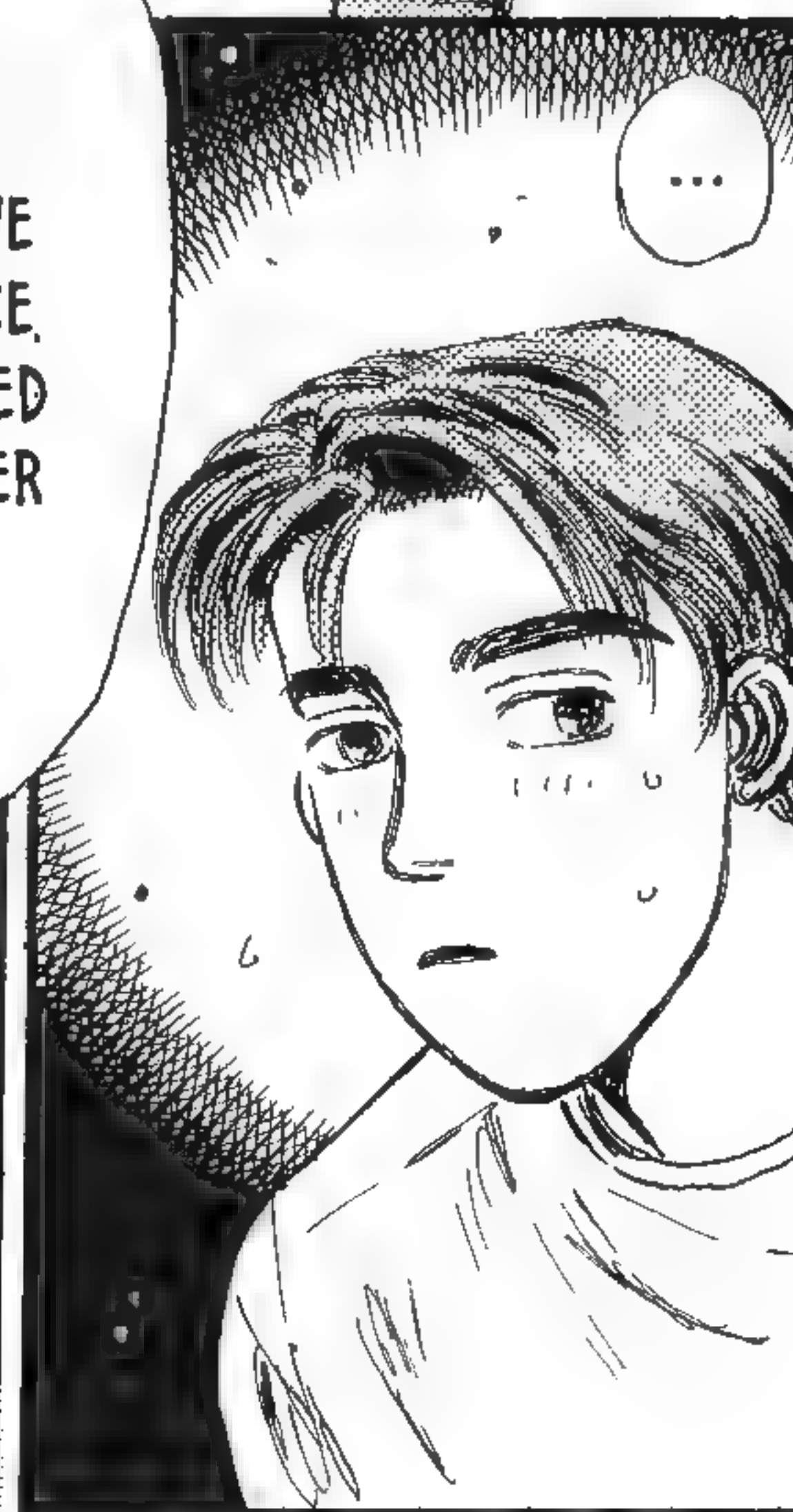


THAT WAS PATHETIC, TAKUMI. YOU NEED TO GET A GRIP.

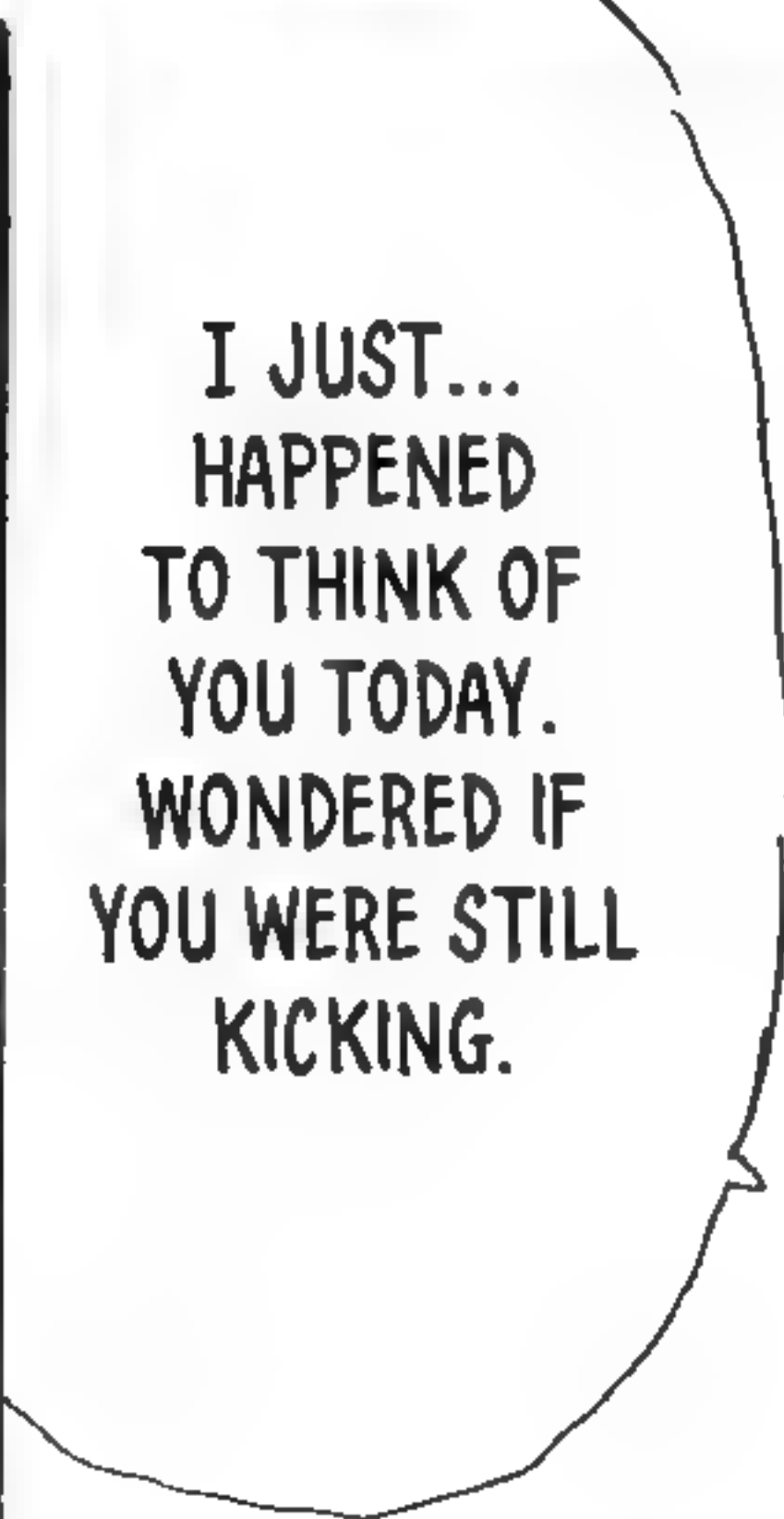
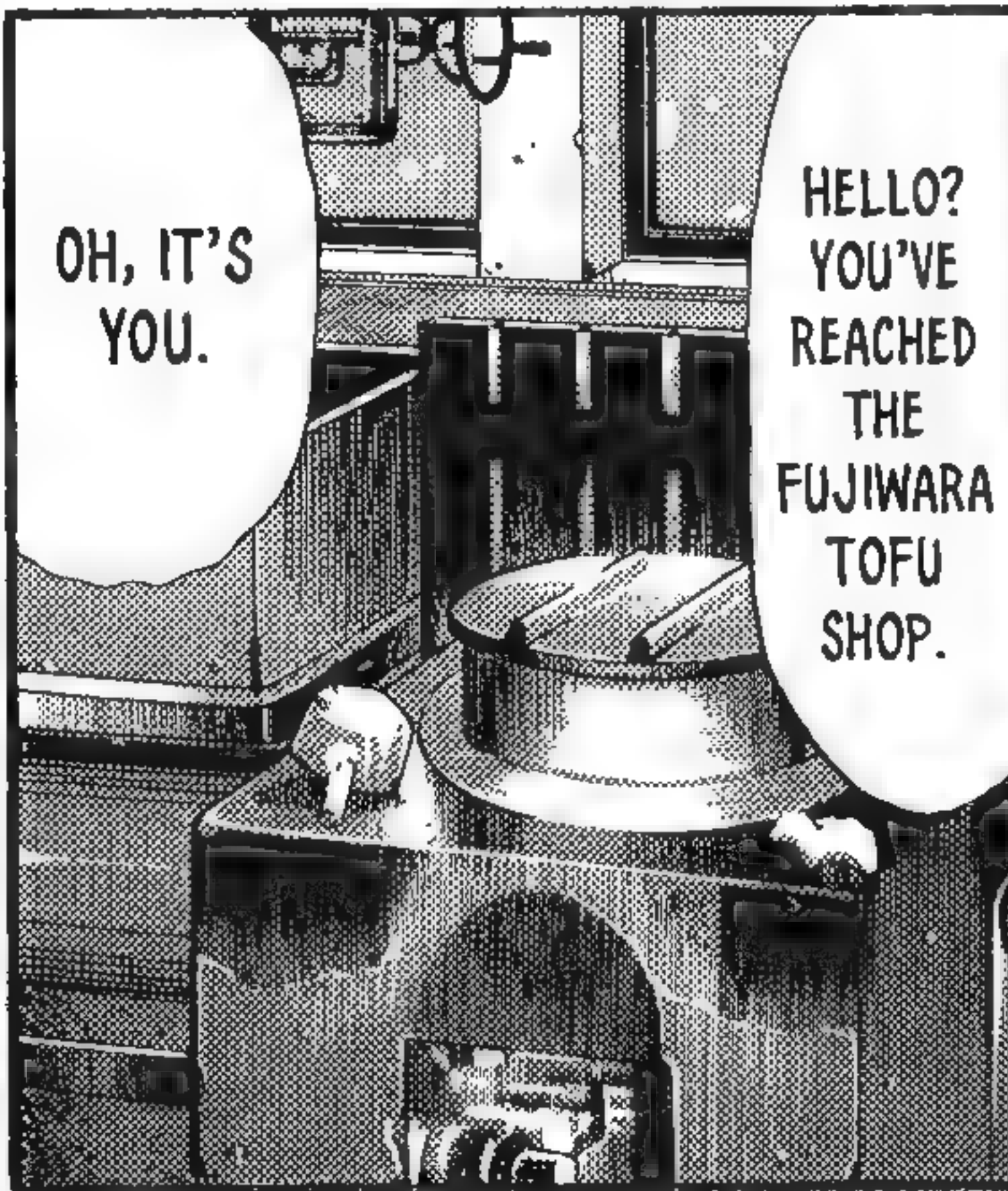
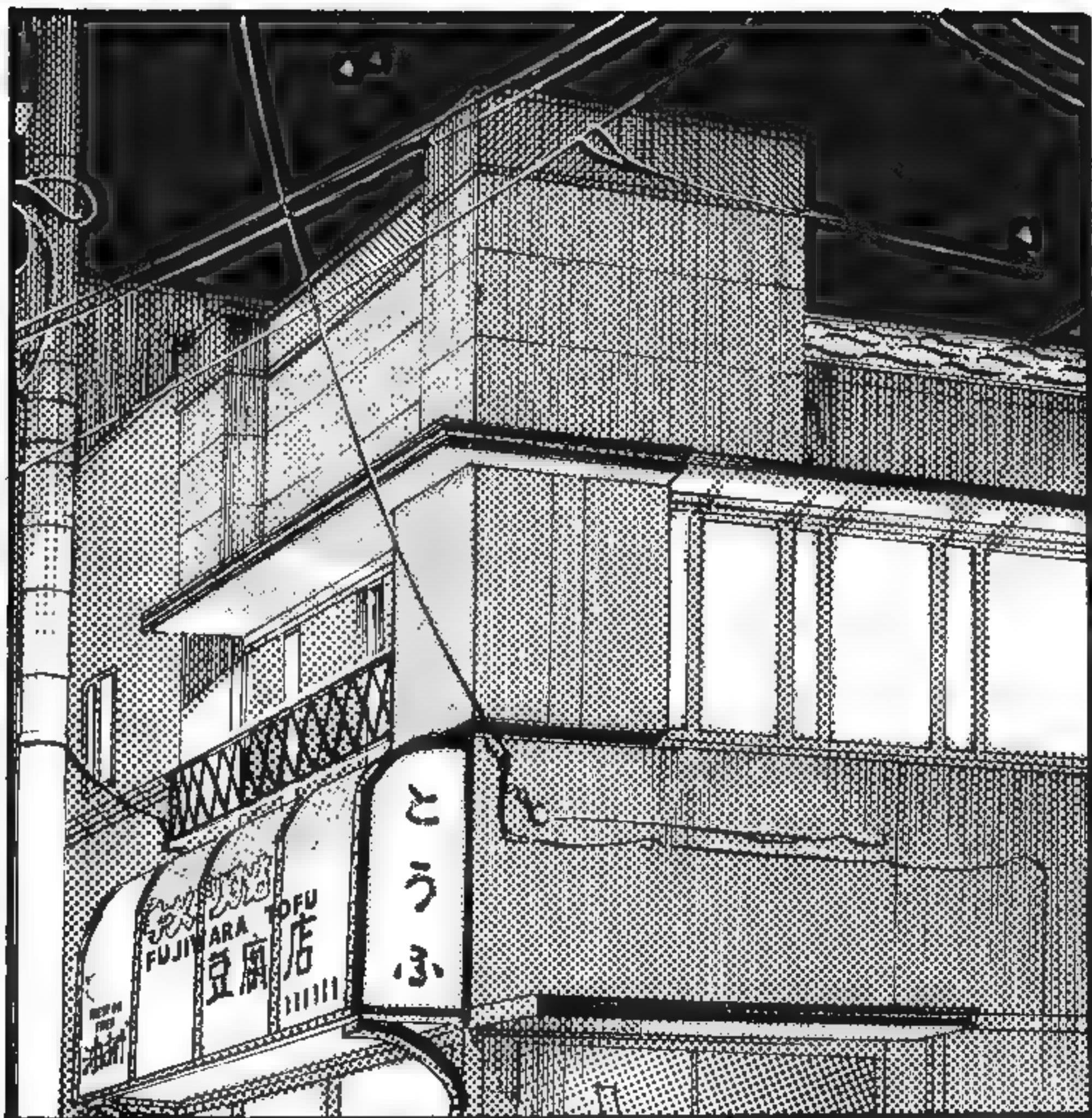


IN THAT CAR... AW, FORGET IT. YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY I WAS SO TERRIFIED.

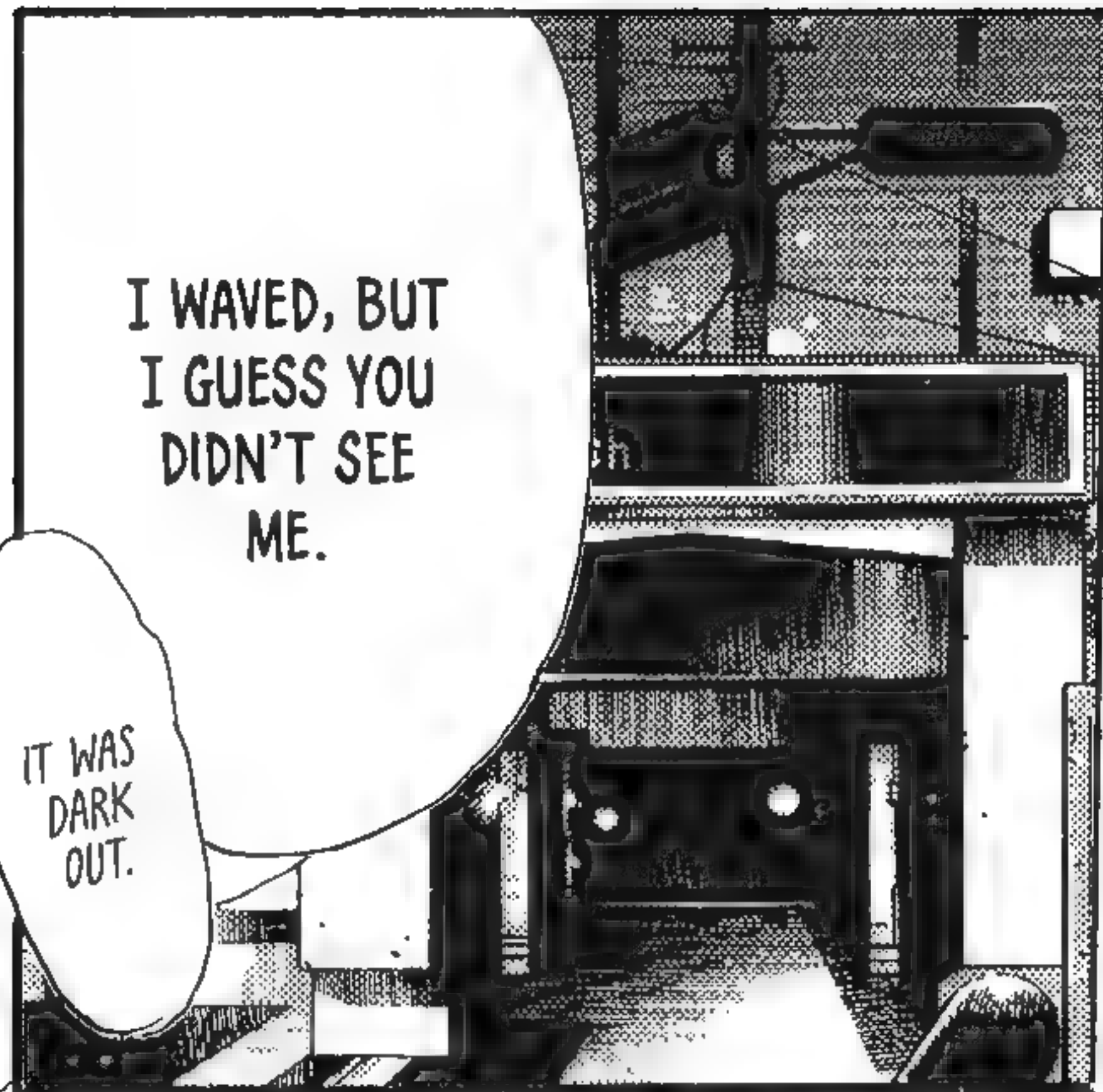
I'M NOT, ITSUKI. I'VE NEVER ONCE BEEN SCARED ON A ROLLER COASTER.





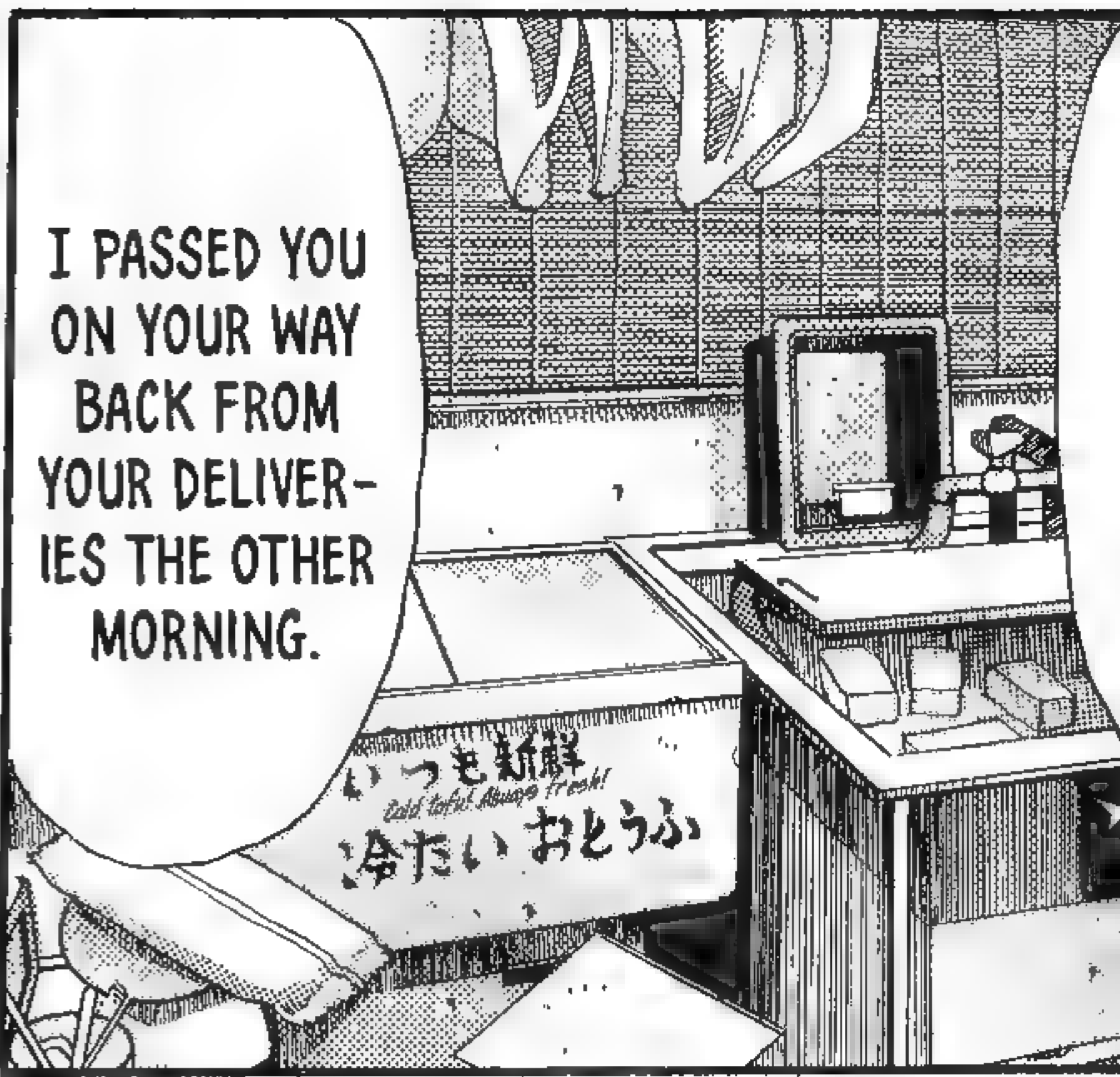






I WAVED, BUT  
I GUESS YOU  
DIDN'T SEE  
ME.

IT WAS  
DARK  
OUT.



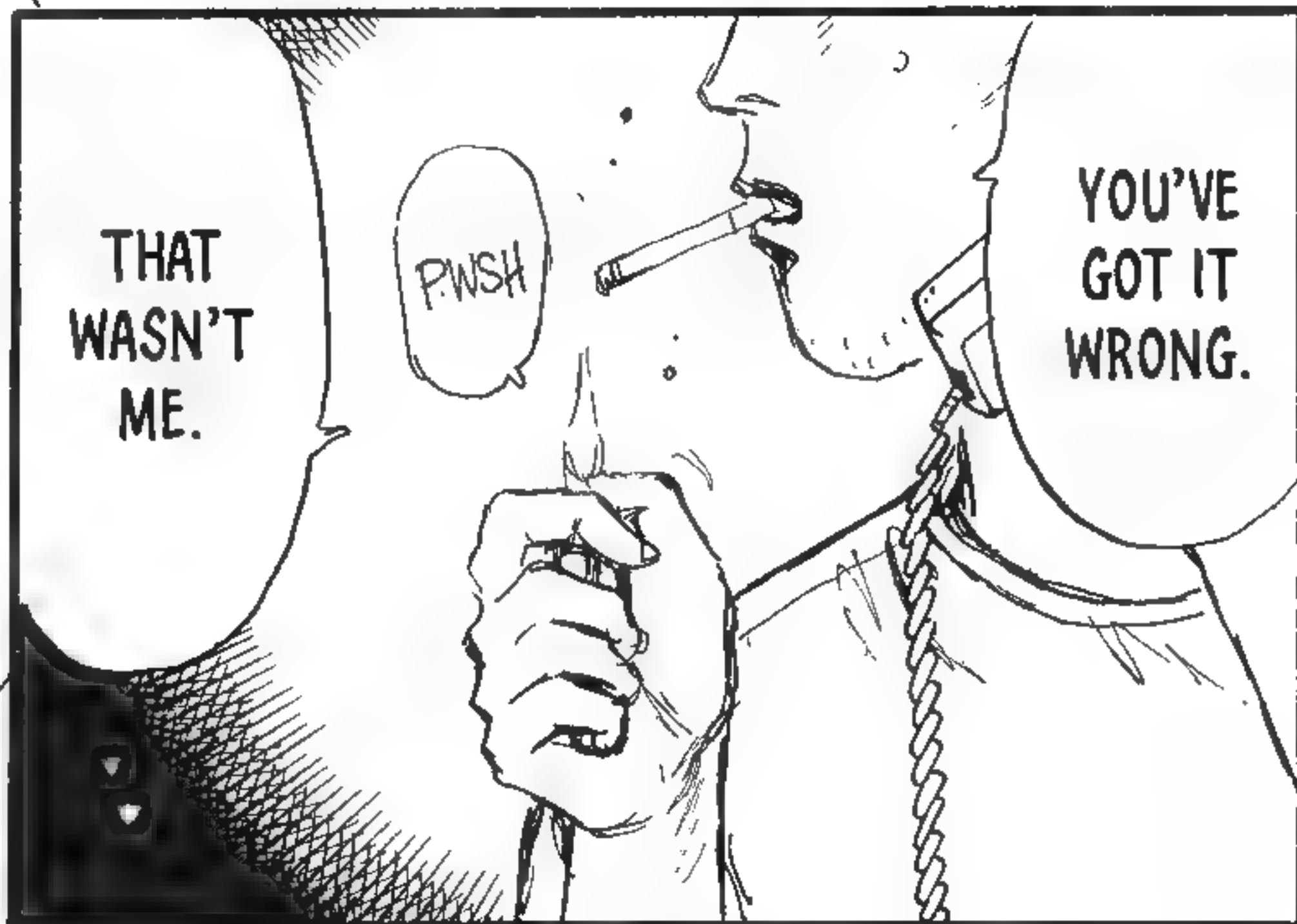
I PASSED YOU  
ON YOUR WAY  
BACK FROM  
YOUR DELIVER-  
IES THE OTHER  
MORNING.

WELL, I KNOW  
ONE THING—THE  
EIGHT-SIX IS  
DOING AT LEAST  
AS WELL AS YOU  
ARE.



YOU THINK  
I DON'T KNOW  
YOUR CAR?

THE  
HELL IT  
WASN'T!



THAT  
WASN'T  
ME.

PWSH

YOU'VE  
GOT IT  
WRONG.



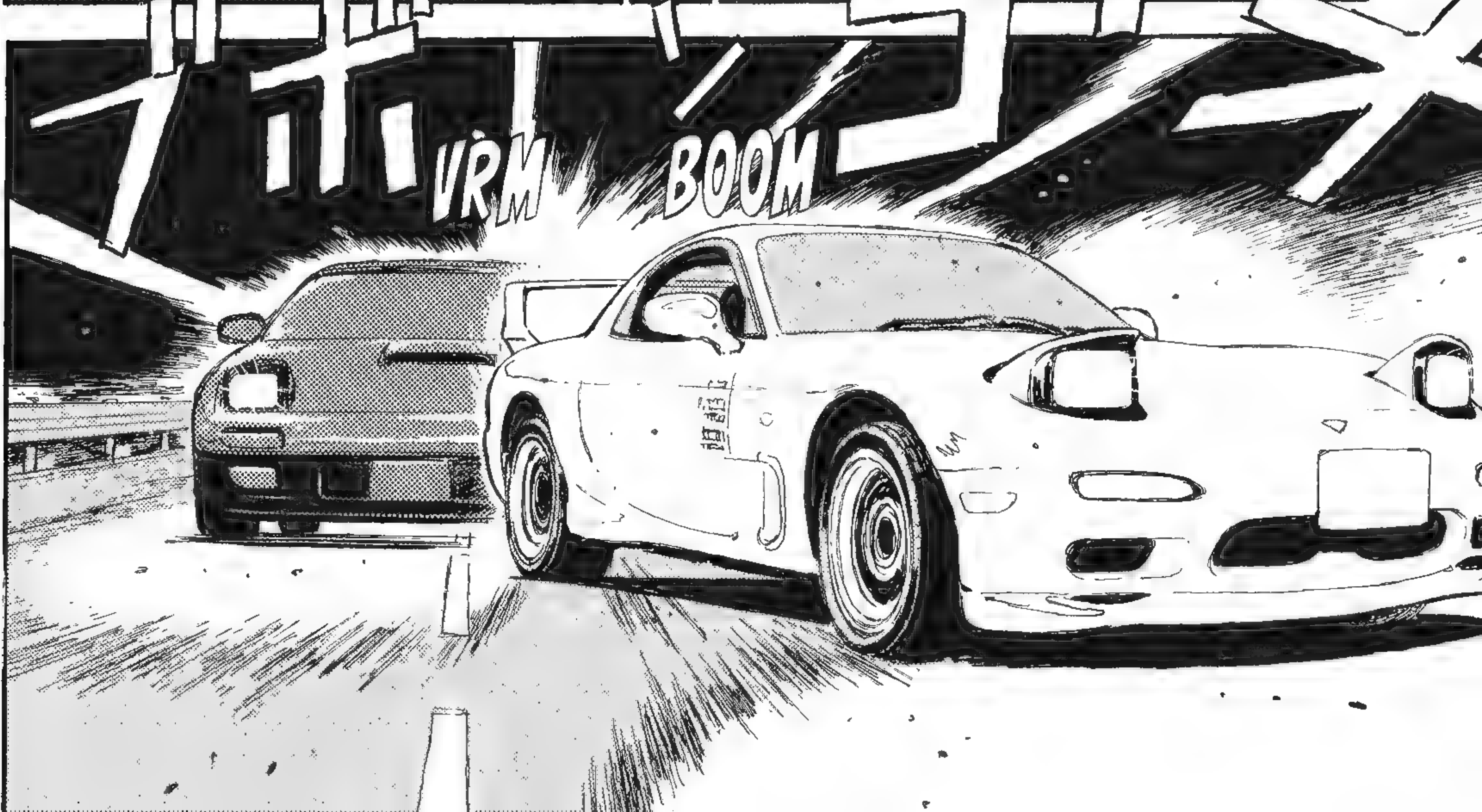
SAY  
WHAT?!



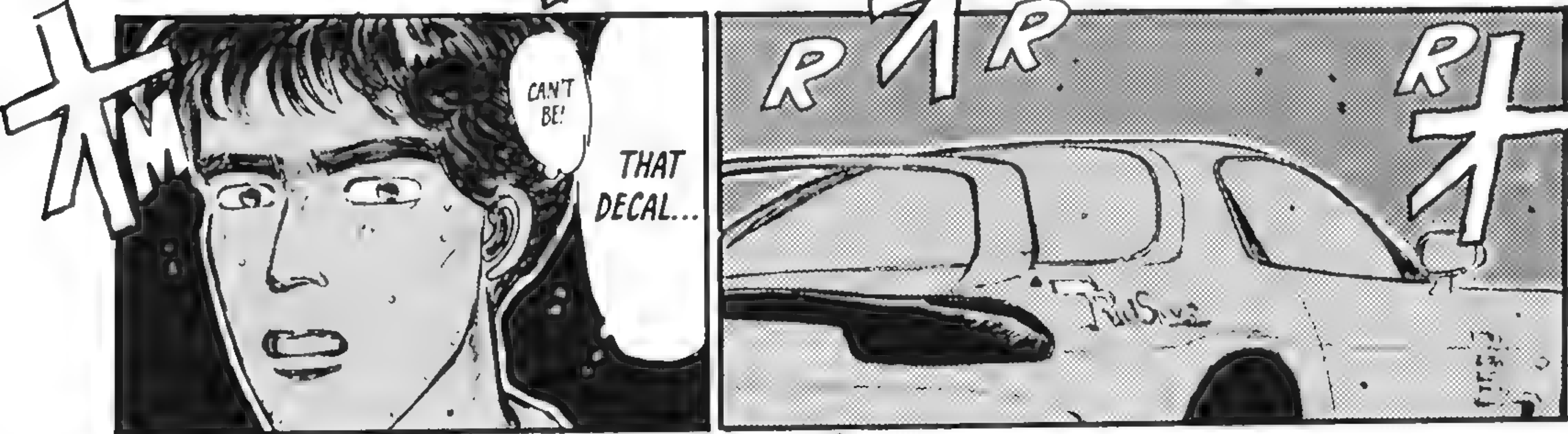
I'VE GOT MY  
BOY, TAKUMI,  
DOING THE TOFU  
DELIVERIES TO  
THE LAKESIDE  
HOTELS THESE  
DAYS.

DIDN'T SAY IT  
WASN'T MY CAR.  
JUST WASN'T ME  
DRIVING.







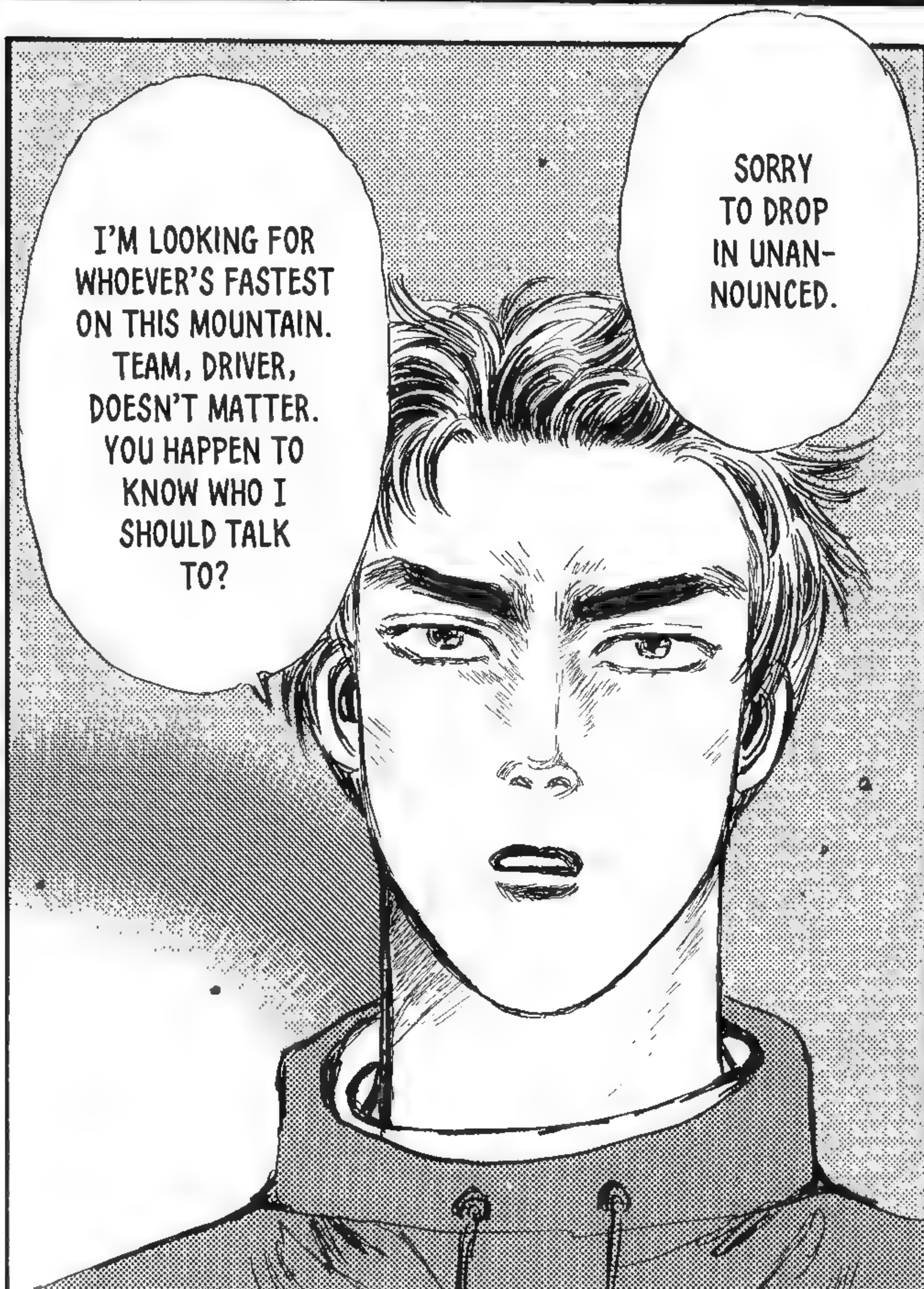






WE CALL  
OURSELVES  
THE AKAGI  
RED SUNS.

WE'RE  
FROM  
MOUNT  
AKAGI.



I'M LOOKING FOR  
WHOEVER'S FASTEST  
ON THIS MOUNTAIN.  
TEAM, DRIVER,  
DOESN'T MATTER.  
YOU HAPPEN TO  
KNOW WHO I  
SHOULD TALK  
TO?

SORRY  
TO DROP  
IN UNAN-  
NOUNCED.



THEY'RE  
THE BEST  
DRIVERS  
ON AKAGI!

I  
KNEW  
IT!



▶ Ch. 2: The Rotary Brothers?  
Fastest of All!



...AND WE LIKE  
TO THINK WE'RE  
THE FASTEST  
ON AKINA.

WE RUN  
A TEAM  
CALLED  
THE SPEED  
STARS...

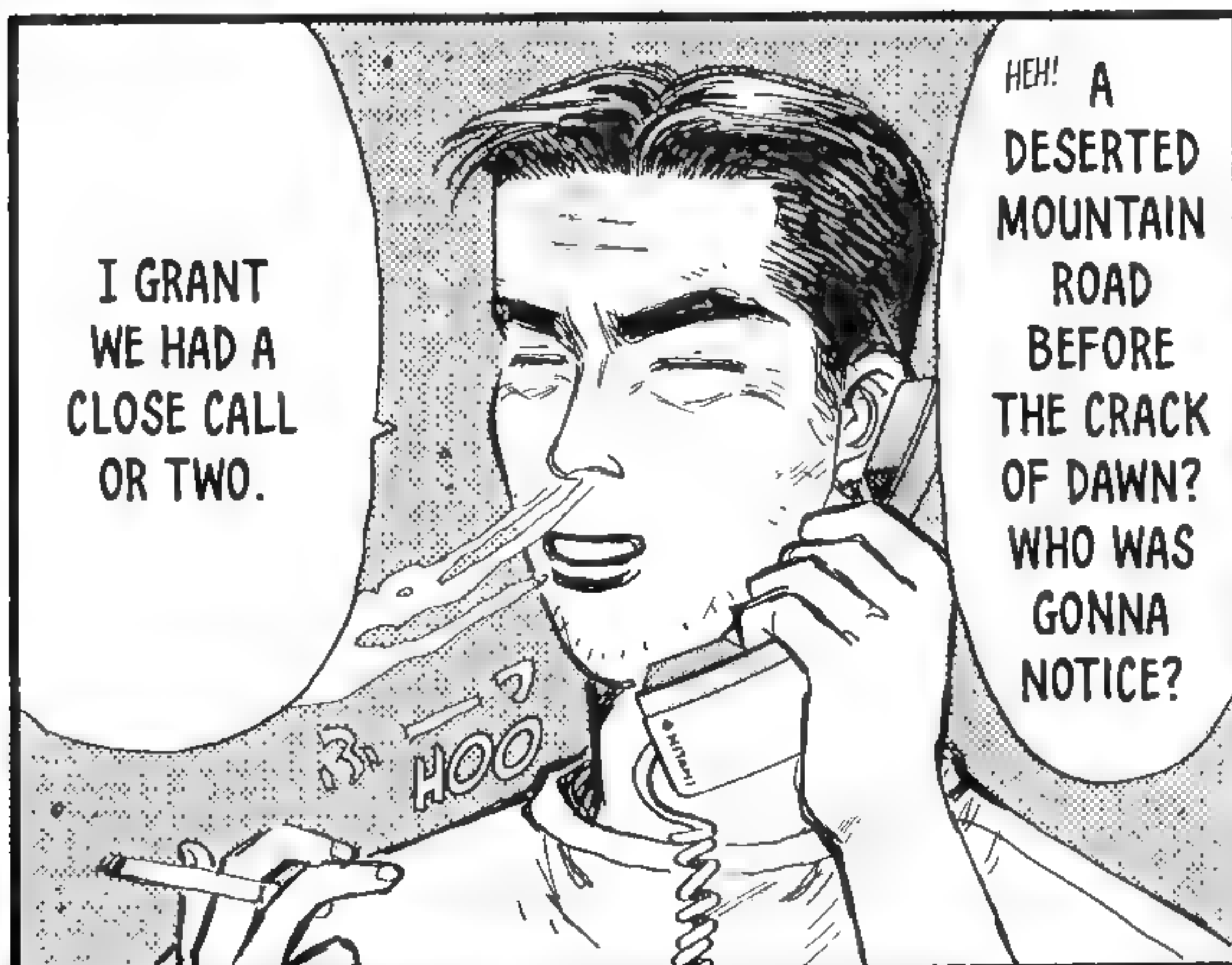




THAT'D MEAN  
HE'S BEEN  
DRIVING SINCE  
HE WAS IN  
SEVENTH  
GRADE!

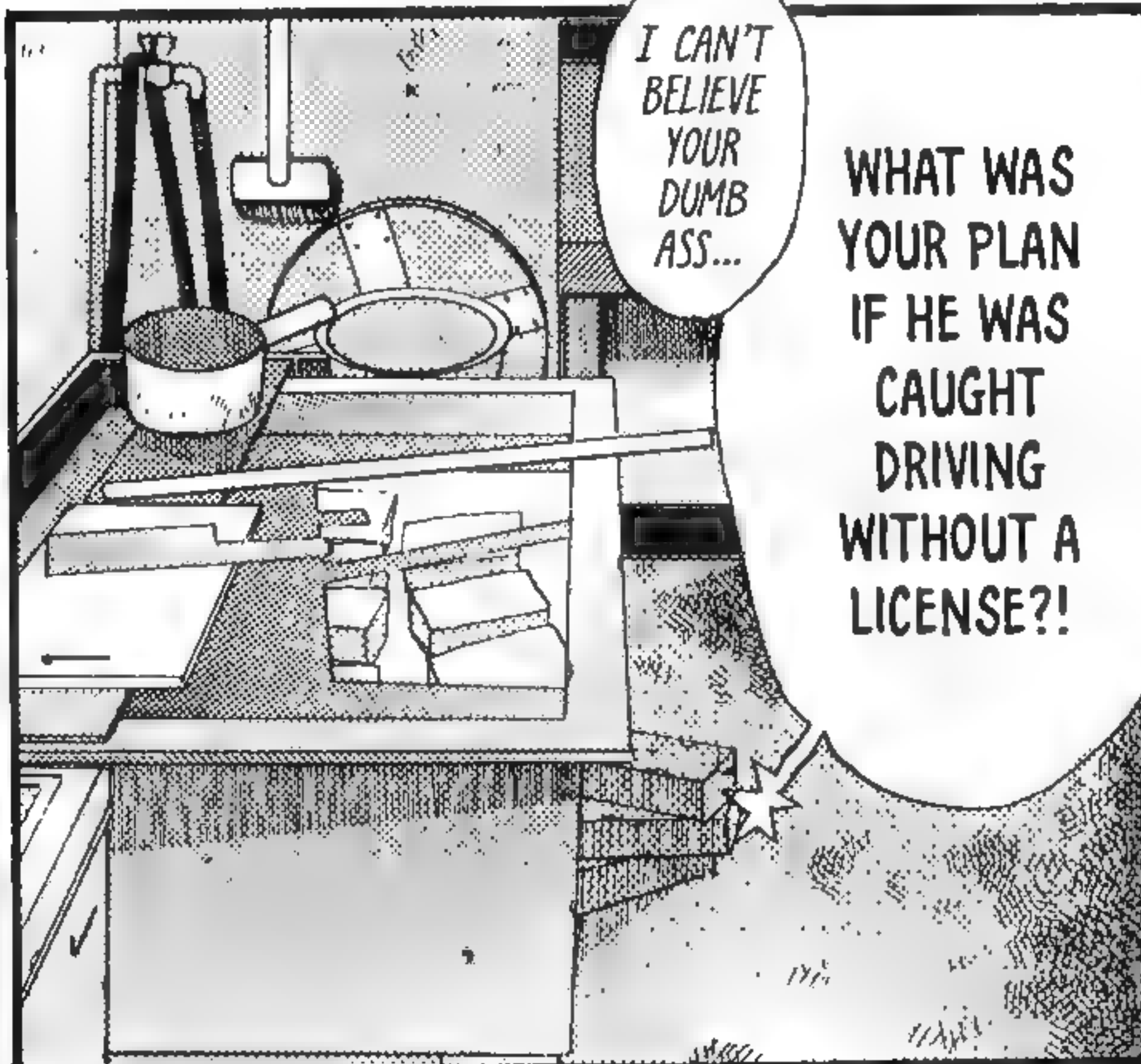
AND YOU  
SAID FIVE  
YEARS?!

YOUR  
BOY'S  
STILL  
IN HIGH  
SCHOOL!



I GRANT  
WE HAD A  
CLOSE CALL  
OR TWO.

HEH! A  
DESERTED  
MOUNTAIN  
ROAD  
BEFORE  
THE CRACK  
OF DAWN?  
WHO WAS  
GONNA  
NOTICE?



I CAN'T  
BELIEVE  
YOUR  
DUMB  
ASS...

WHAT WAS  
YOUR PLAN  
IF HE WAS  
CAUGHT  
DRIVING  
WITHOUT A  
LICENSE?!



BHKT!!  
BHKT!!  
BHKT!!

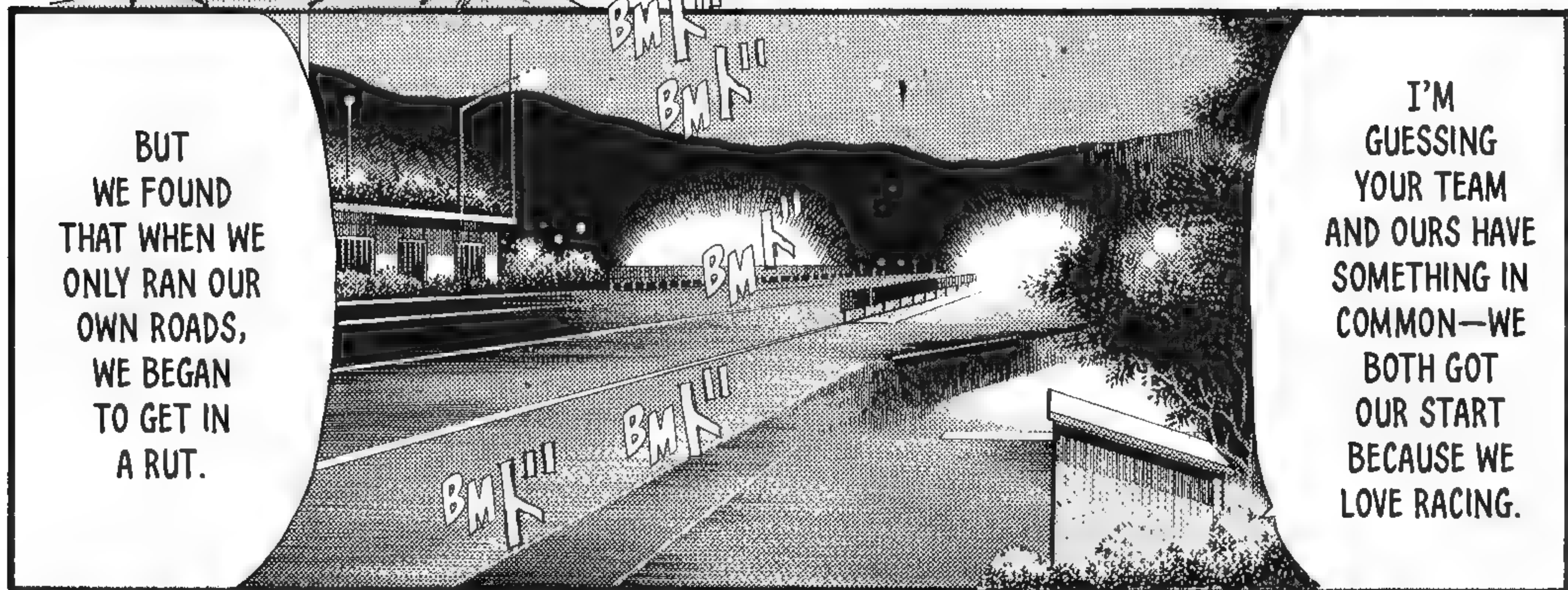
BHKT!!  
BHKT!!



DUMBASS...

BUT  
HE'S GOT  
HIS LICENSE  
NOW—NO  
HARM, NO  
FOUL!









NO ONE  
HAS TO  
WIN OR  
LOSE.

WE CAN HANG OUT,  
CHECK OUT THE RUN.  
AT THE END OF THE  
NIGHT, WE HAVE OUR  
BEST DRIVERS DO A  
LITTLE TIME ATTACK.  
UPHILL AND DOWN.



GUESS IT'S  
HARD TO  
SAY NO,  
HUH...?

WHEN  
THEY  
PUT IT  
THAT  
WAY...

WHAT DO  
YOU SAY?

WE JUST  
WANT TO  
FOSTER  
INTER-  
TEAM  
FRIEND-  
SHIP.

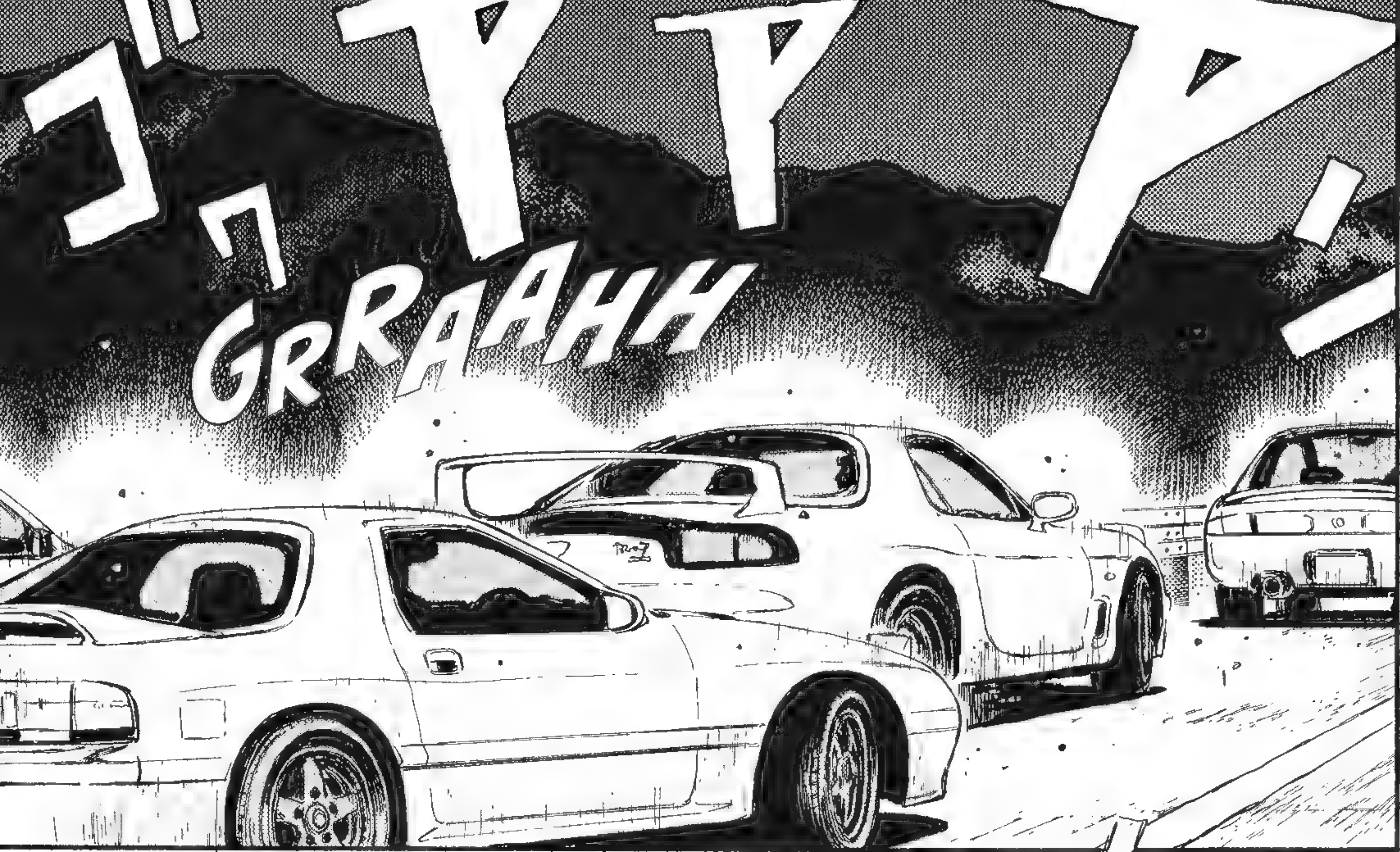


POLITELY,  
OF COURSE.

WE'LL  
SPEND  
TONIGHT  
PRACTICING.

PERFECT!  
THEN IT'S  
SETTLED.

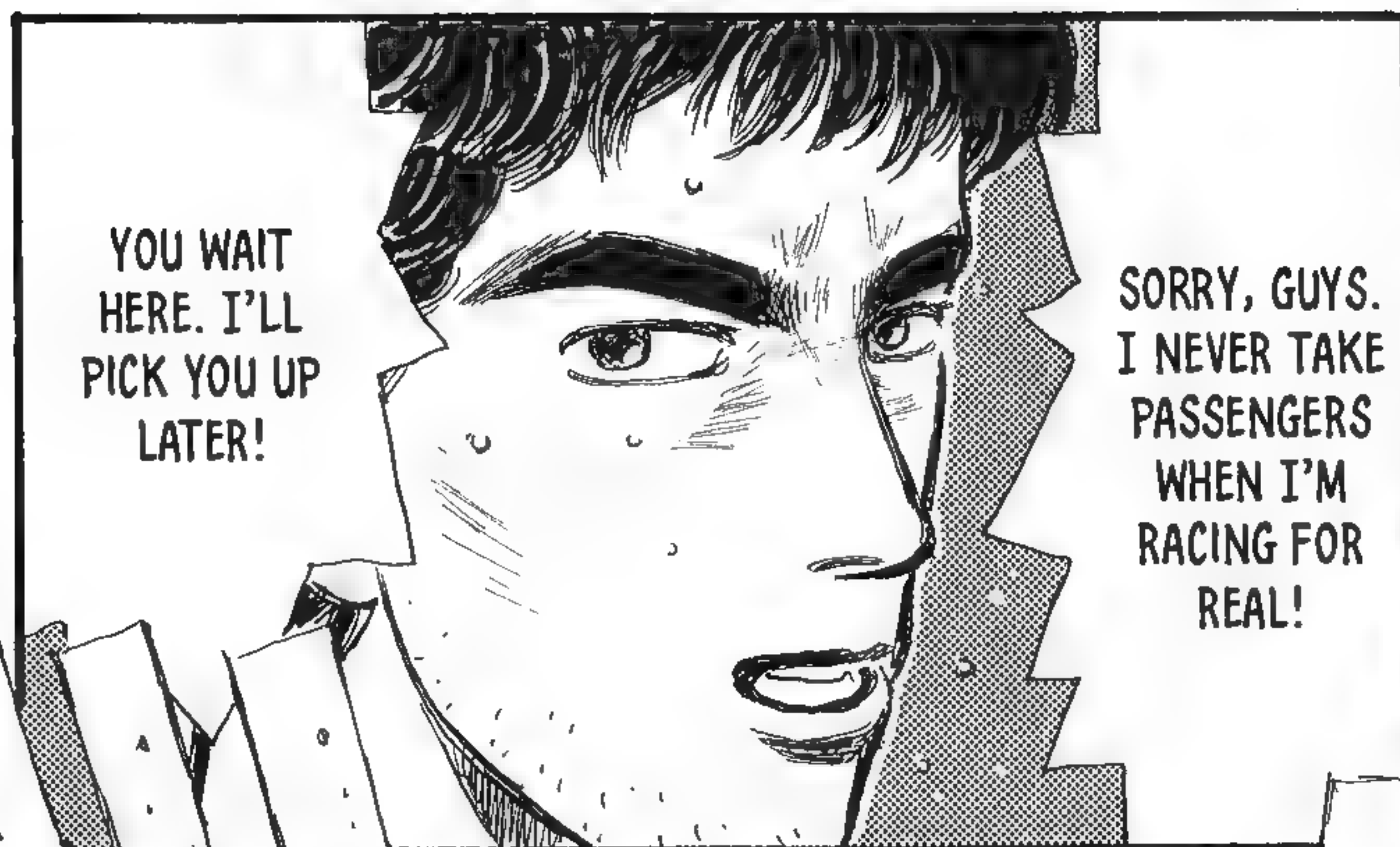












YOU WAIT  
HERE. I'LL  
PICK YOU UP  
LATER!

SORRY, GUYS.  
I NEVER TAKE  
PASSENGERS  
WHEN I'M  
RACING FOR  
REAL!



WHAT  
SHOULD  
WE DO?

IKETANI-  
SENPAI!



THE  
ACTION'S  
RIGHT  
THERE AND  
WE'RE THE  
ONLY ONES  
WITHOUT  
A CAR!

WHATTA  
SAD  
SIGHT!

AW,  
MAN!

SLUMP  
へたへ





IS IT  
REALLY THAT  
GREAT? BEING  
A RACER,  
I MEAN.

ITSUKI...

I DON'T  
GET YOU,  
TAKUMI!

WHY'S IT  
SUCH A BIG  
DEAL TO  
EVERYONE?

I DON'T  
GET IT.

MY  
"BLOOD  
PUMP"  
...?

LISTEN  
TO THAT *SOUND!*  
THE NOISE OF  
RACERS FLINGING  
THOSE CARS  
FROM CORNER  
TO CORNER,  
THROTTLE WIDE  
OPEN... DOESN'T  
IT MAKE  
YOUR BLOOD  
PUMP?!

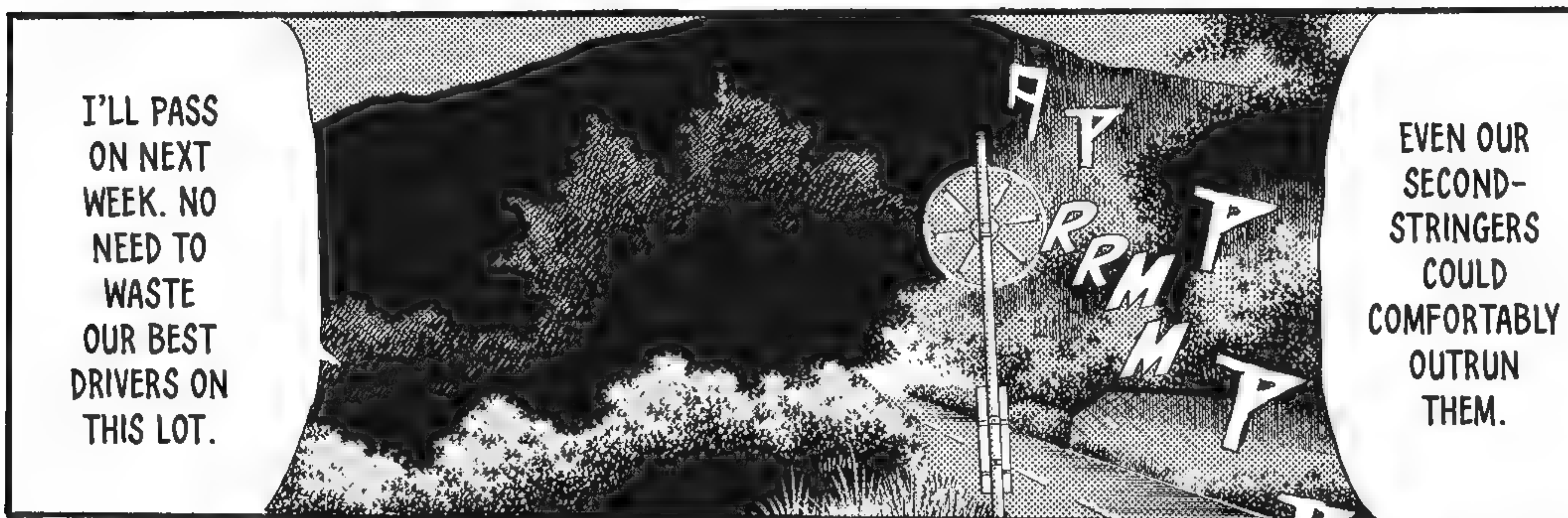
DO YOU  
REALLY  
NOT FEEL  
ANY-  
THING?

DRILL





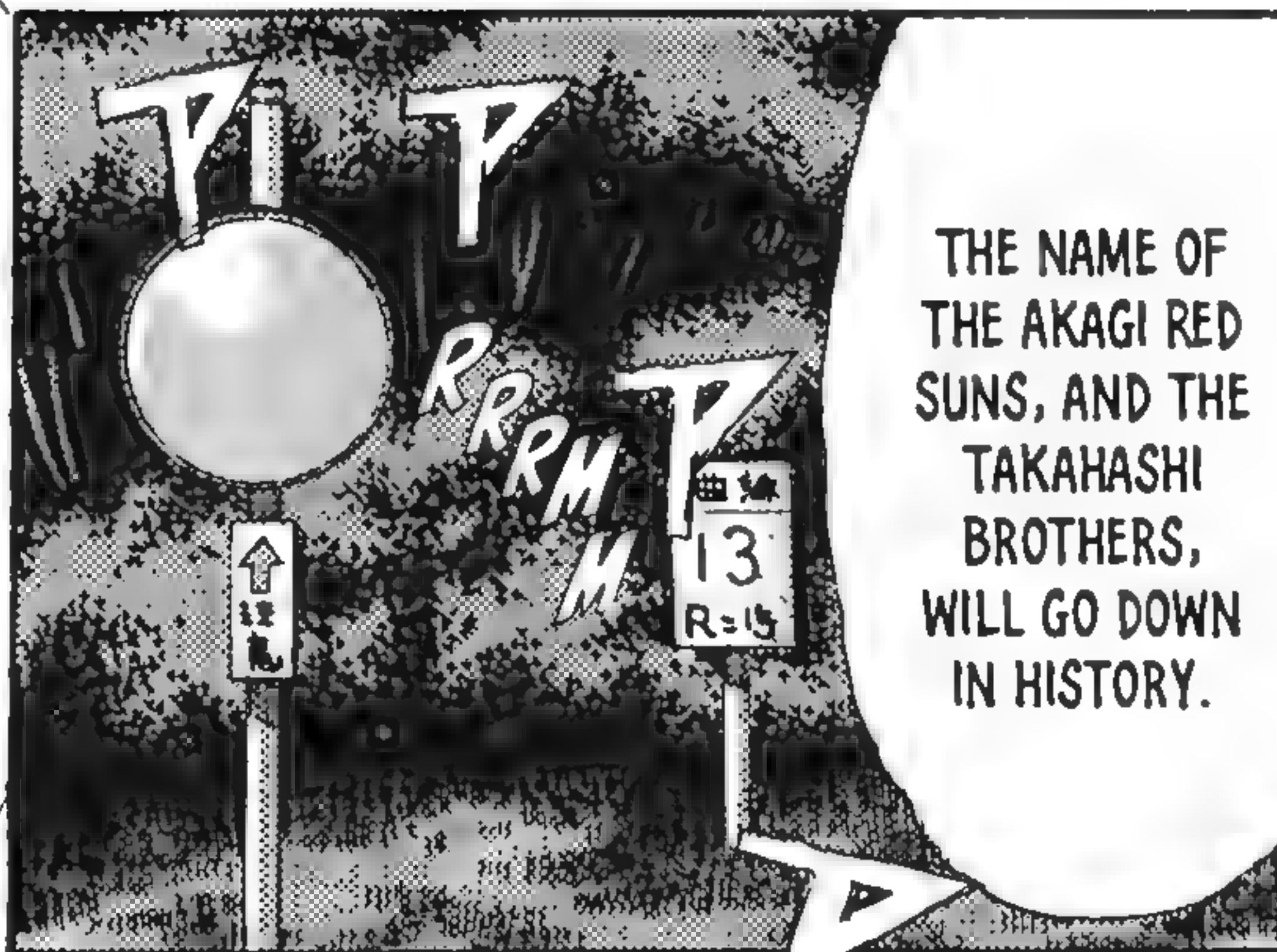




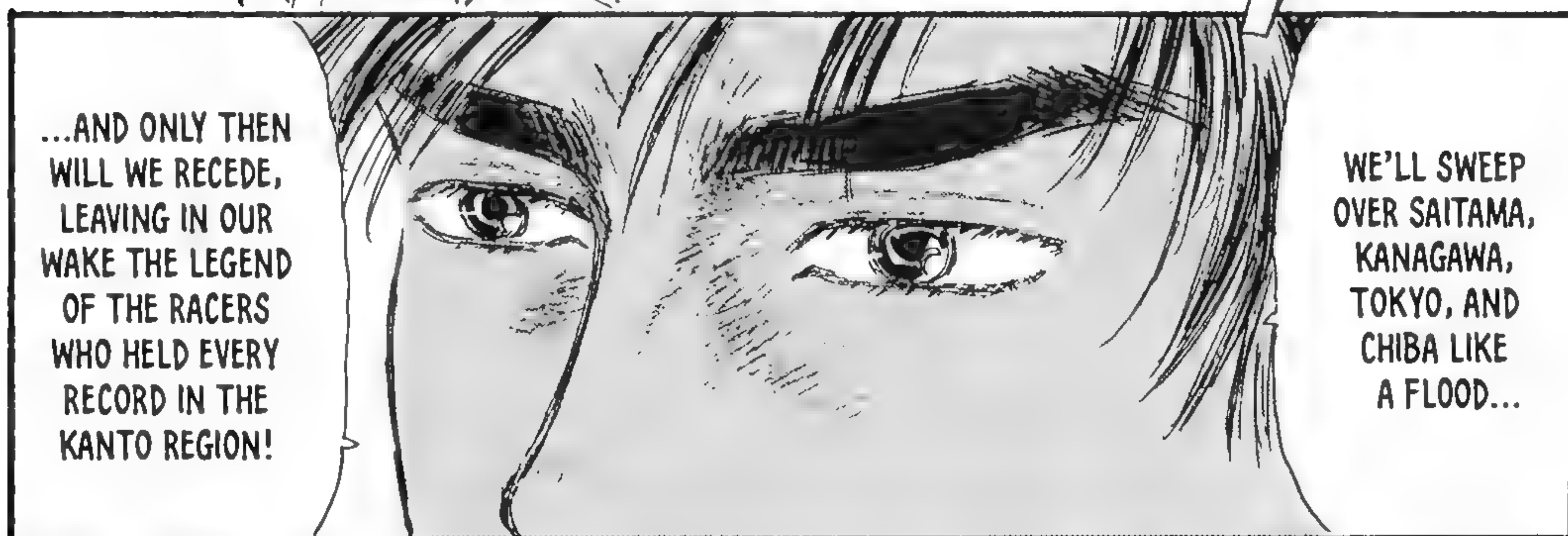




WE'LL START  
BY SHATTERING  
EVERY COURSE  
RECORD ON EVERY  
MOUNTAIN IN THE  
PREFECTURE. BY  
OURSELVES.



THE NAME OF  
THE AKAGI RED  
SUNS, AND THE  
TAKAHASHI  
BROTHERS,  
WILL GO DOWN  
IN HISTORY.



...AND ONLY THEN  
WILL WE RECEDE,  
LEAVING IN OUR  
WAKE THE LEGEND  
OF THE RACERS  
WHO HELD EVERY  
RECORD IN THE  
KANTO REGION!

WE'LL SWEEP  
OVER SAITAMA,  
KANAGAWA,  
TOKYO, AND  
CHIBA LIKE  
A FLOOD...



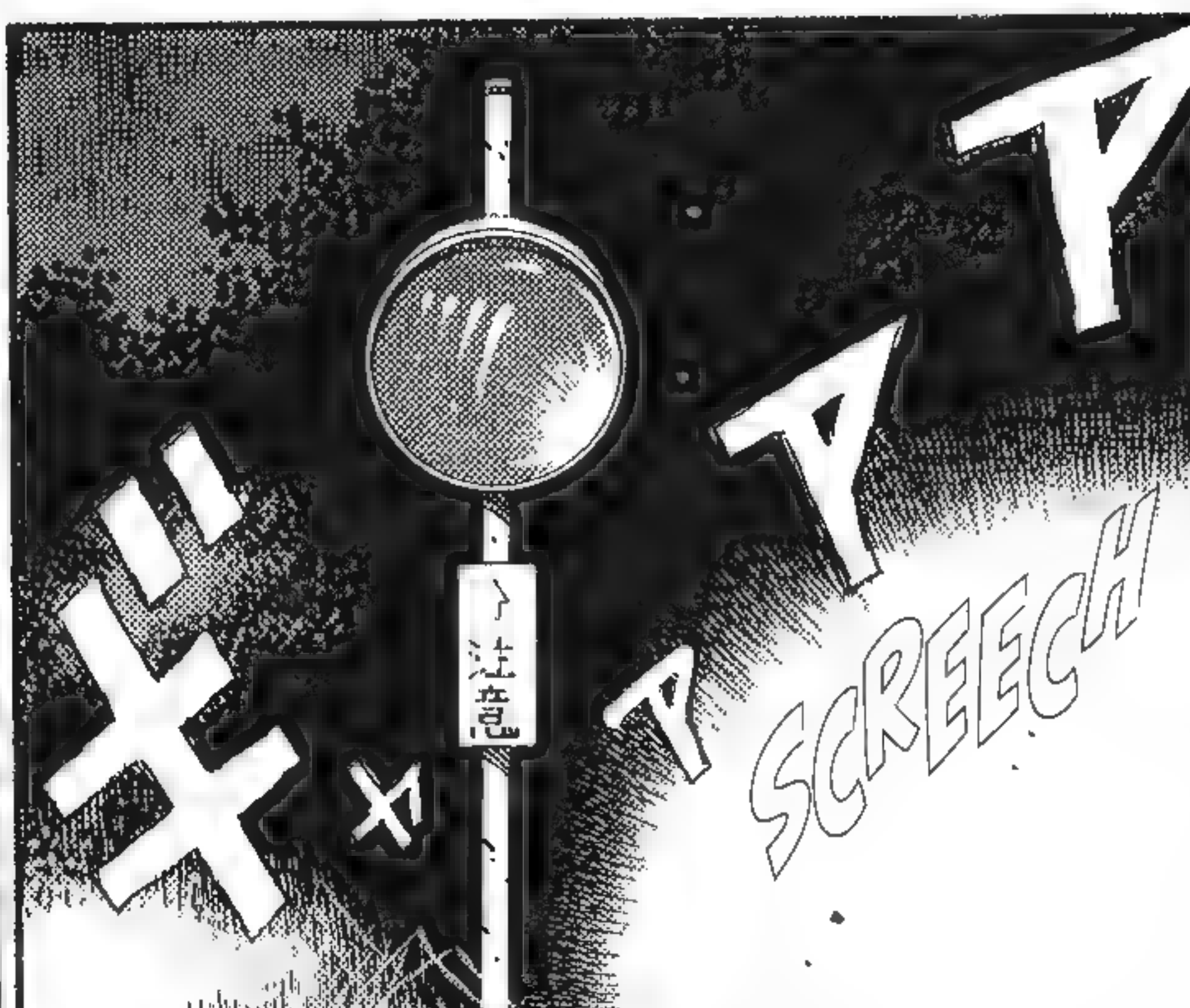
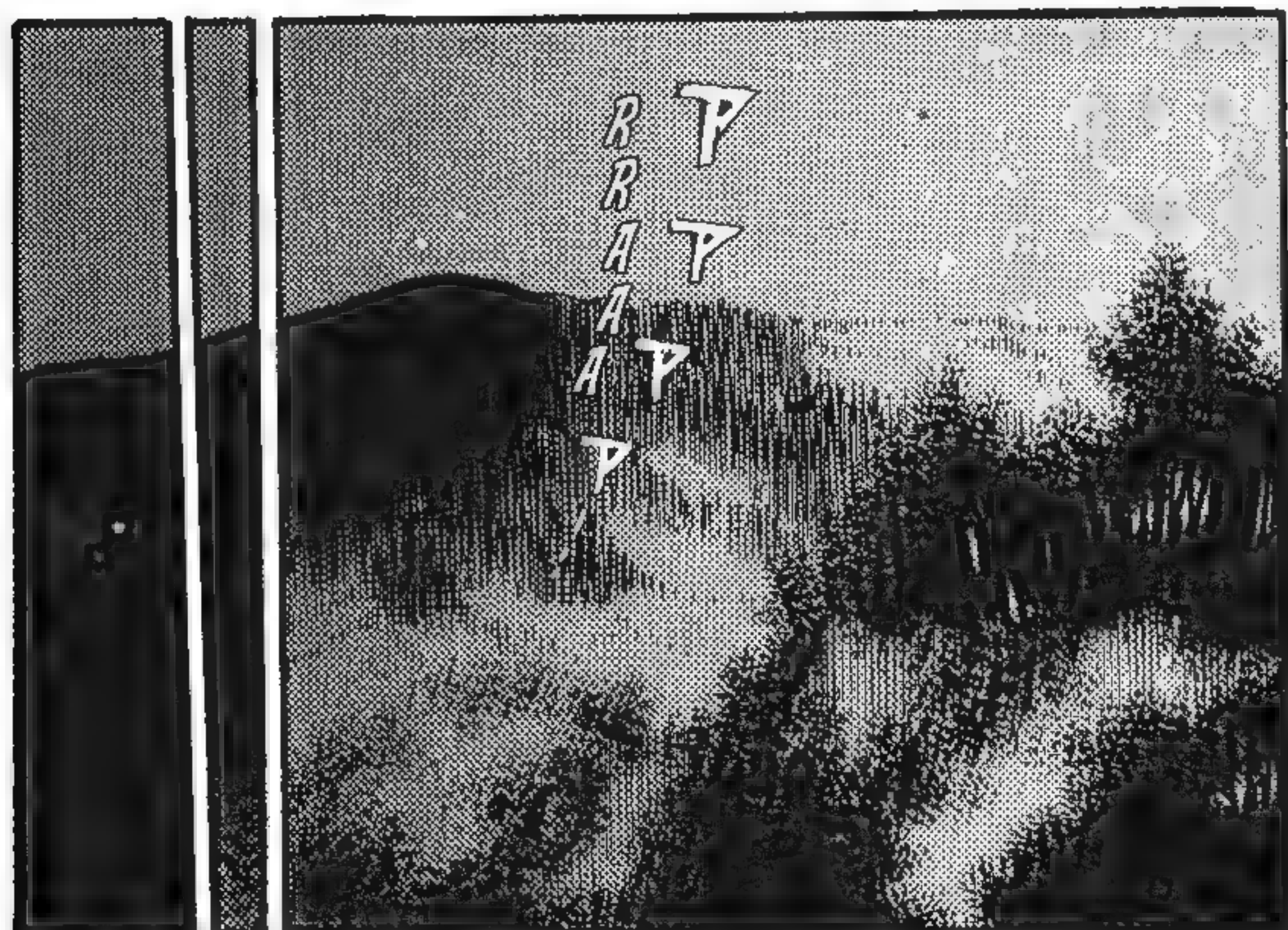
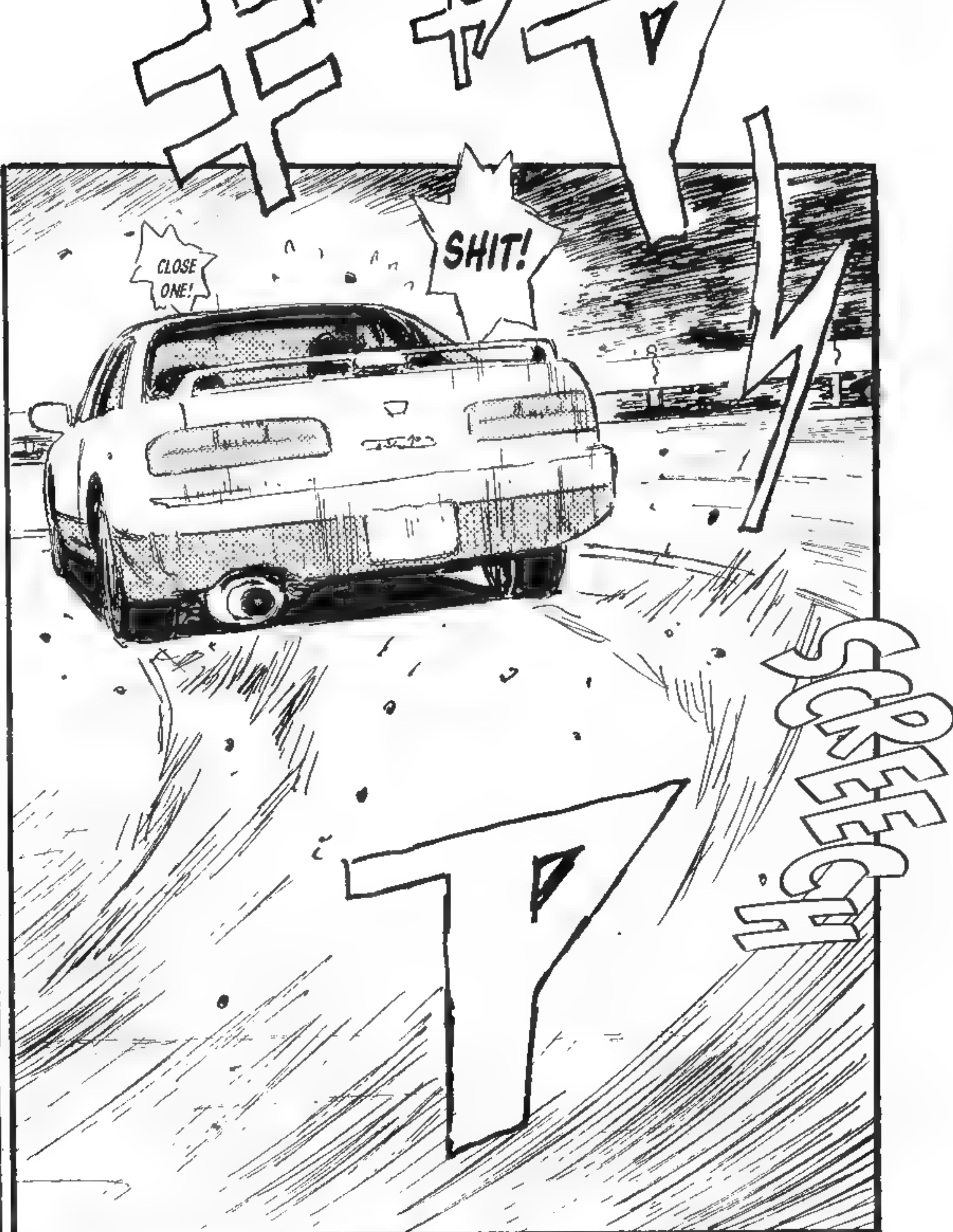
THAT IS THE  
TRUE PROJECT  
OF THE AKAGI  
RED SUNS—

TO  
BE THE  
FASTEST  
IN ALL OF  
KANTO!









Sign: Caution



Hours later...



THIS IS OUR HOME TURF! THEY'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO JUST SHOW UP AND TEAR US APART!

I ALWAYS HEARD THE AKAGI GUYS WERE HIGH-LEVEL RACERS, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS.

I TAILED 'EM TO TRY TO PICK UP ON THEIR TRICKS, BUT I COULDN'T EVEN KEEP UP!

EVERYTHING THEY DO IS JUST DIFFERENT.

I THINK THIS CONTEST IS OVER BEFORE IT'S STARTED, IKETANI.

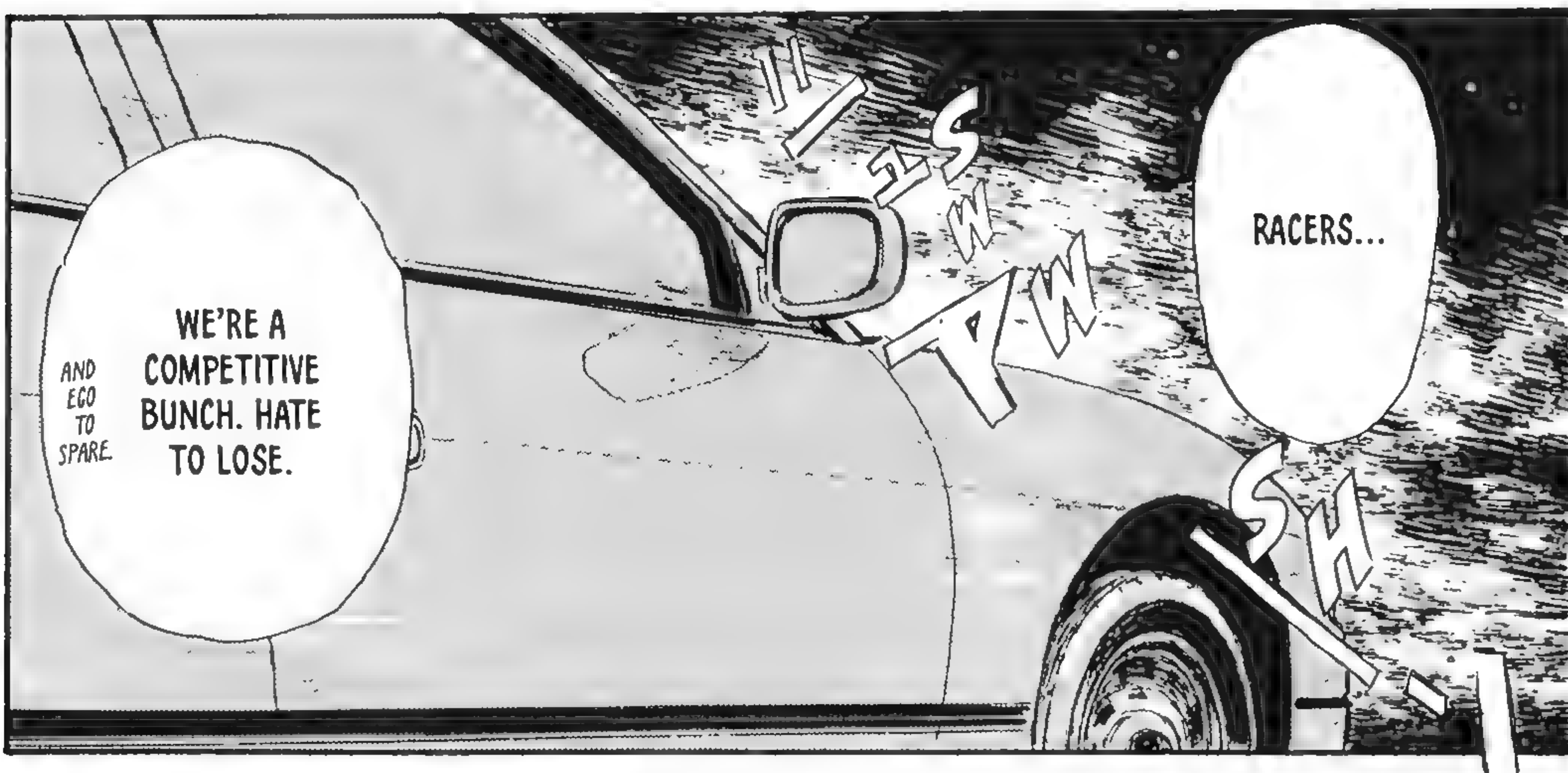
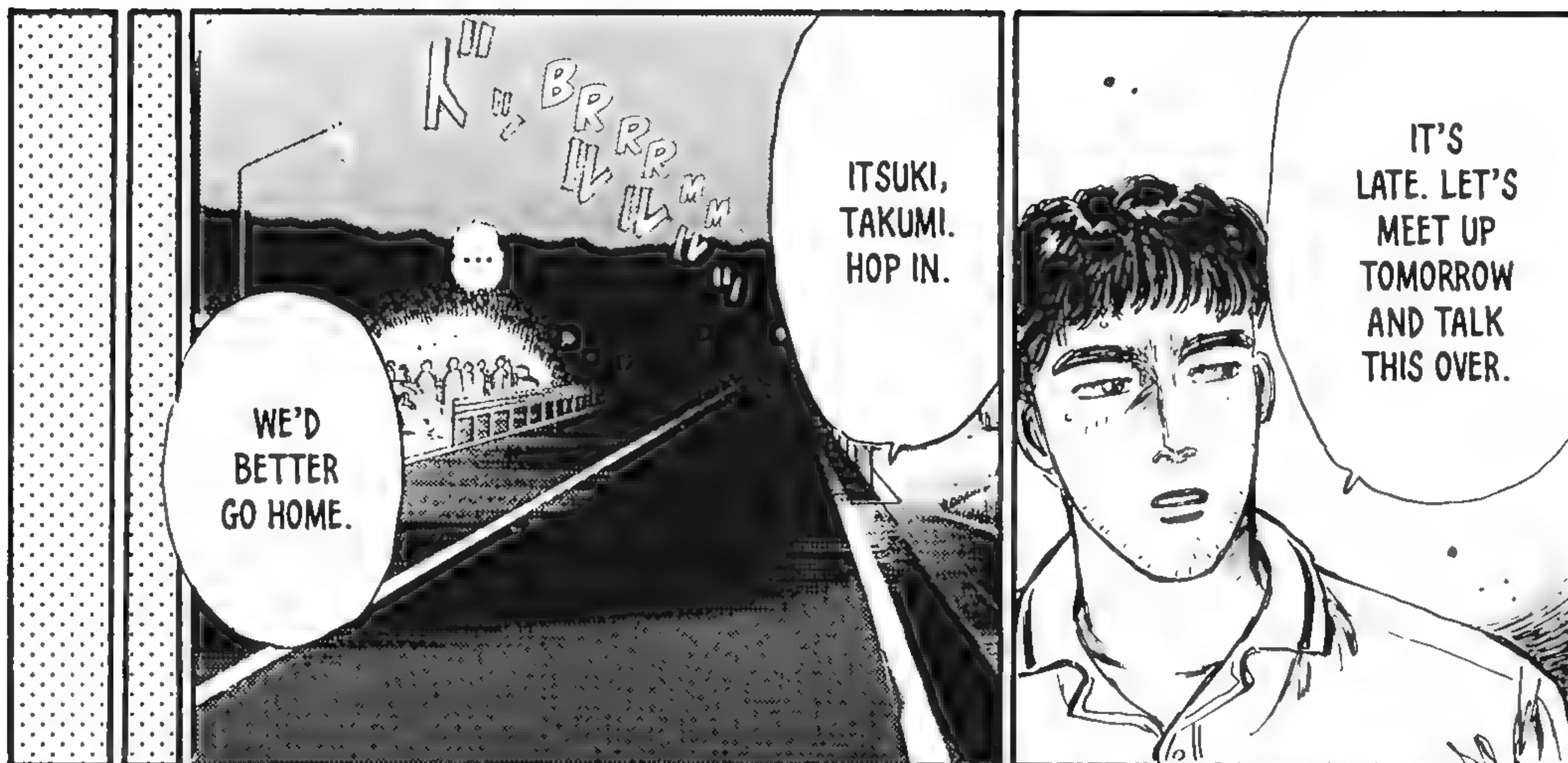
DIFFERENT CARS, MAN!

PLUS, THEY'VE GOT FANCY SUSPENSION BITS AND ALL THE POWER THEY NEED.

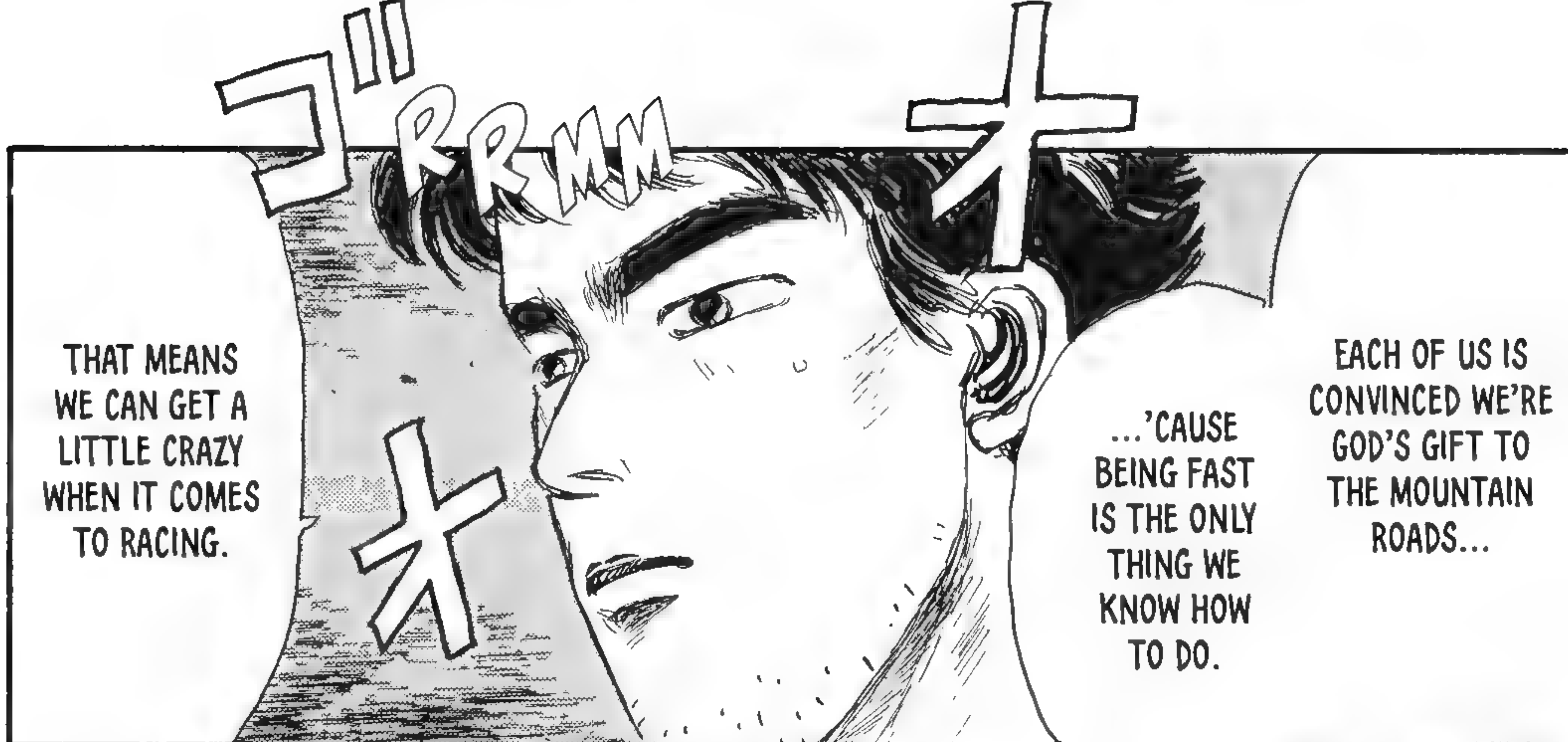
WE SAID WE WOULD RACE. SO, WE RACE.

MAYBE SO. BUT THE HOME TEAM CAN'T JUST TURN TAIL.





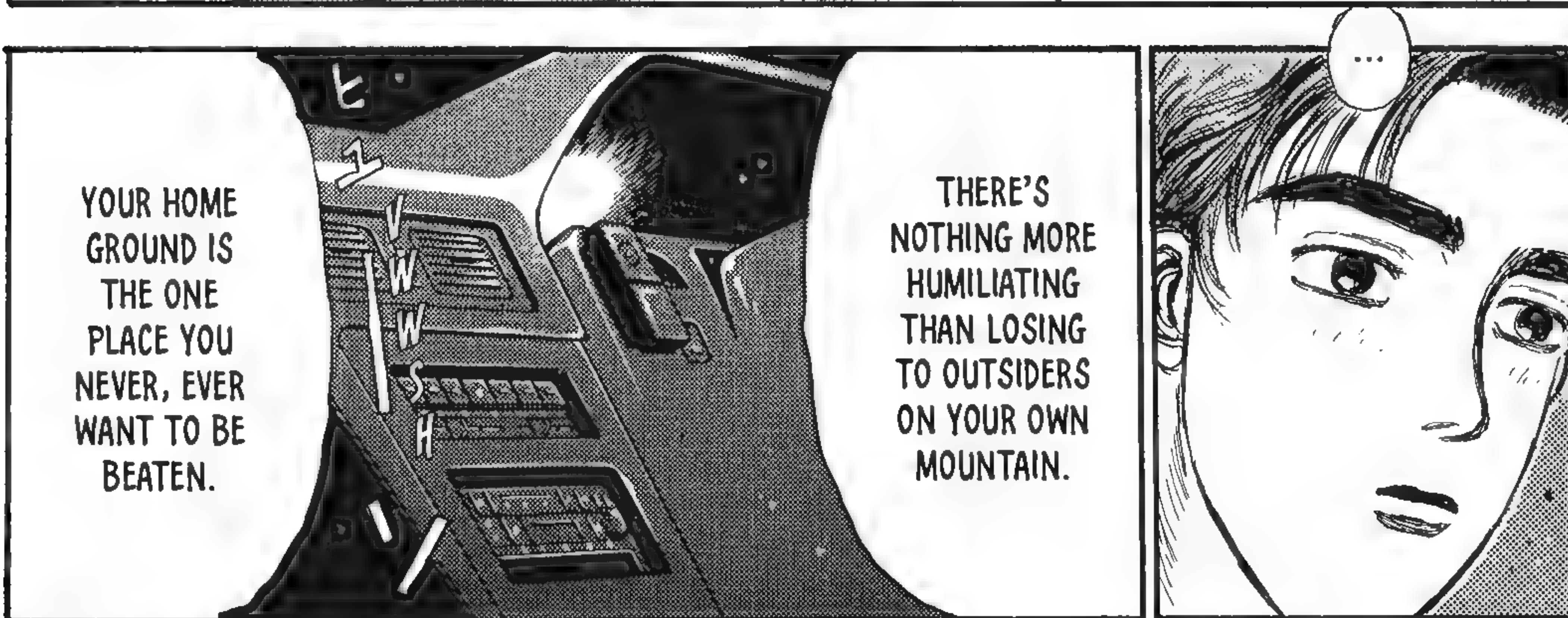




THAT MEANS  
WE CAN GET A  
LITTLE CRAZY  
WHEN IT COMES  
TO RACING.

... 'CAUSE  
BEING FAST  
IS THE ONLY  
THING WE  
KNOW HOW  
TO DO.

EACH OF US IS  
CONVINCED WE'RE  
GOD'S GIFT TO  
THE MOUNTAIN  
ROADS...



YOUR HOME  
GROUND IS  
THE ONE  
PLACE YOU  
NEVER, EVER  
WANT TO BE  
BEATEN.

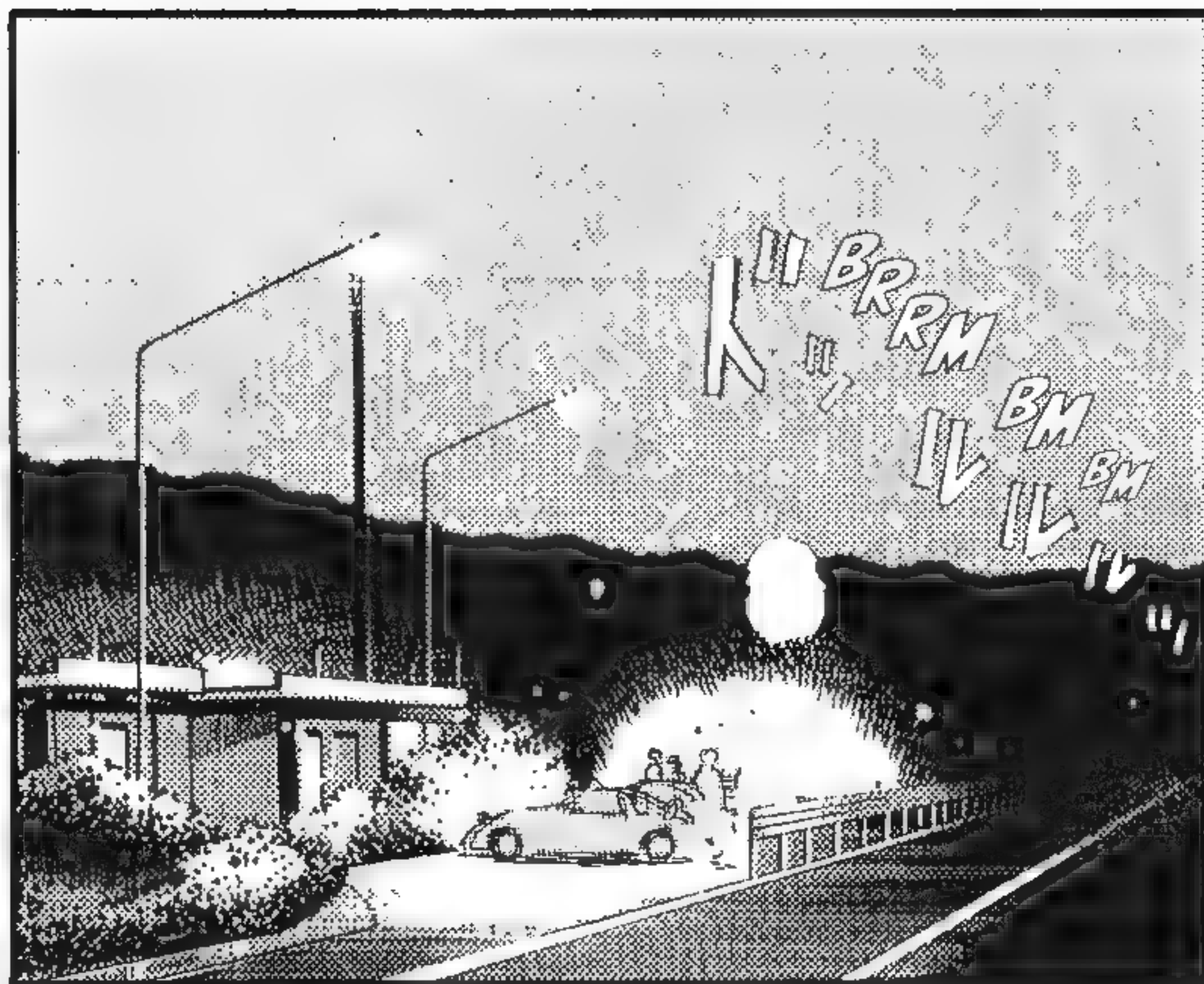
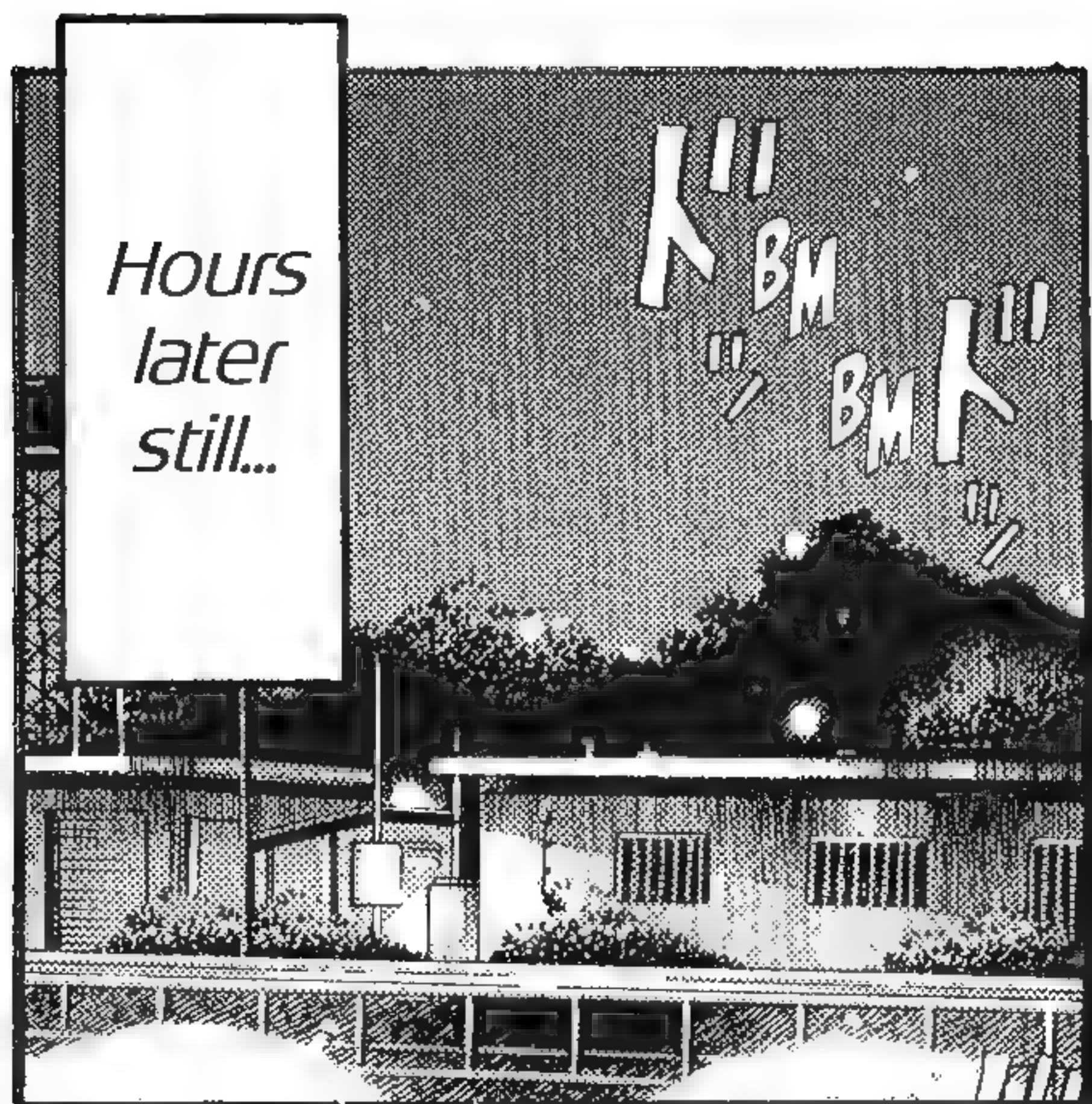
THERE'S  
NOTHING MORE  
HUMILIATING  
THAN LOSING  
TO OUTSIDERS  
ON YOUR OWN  
MOUNTAIN.



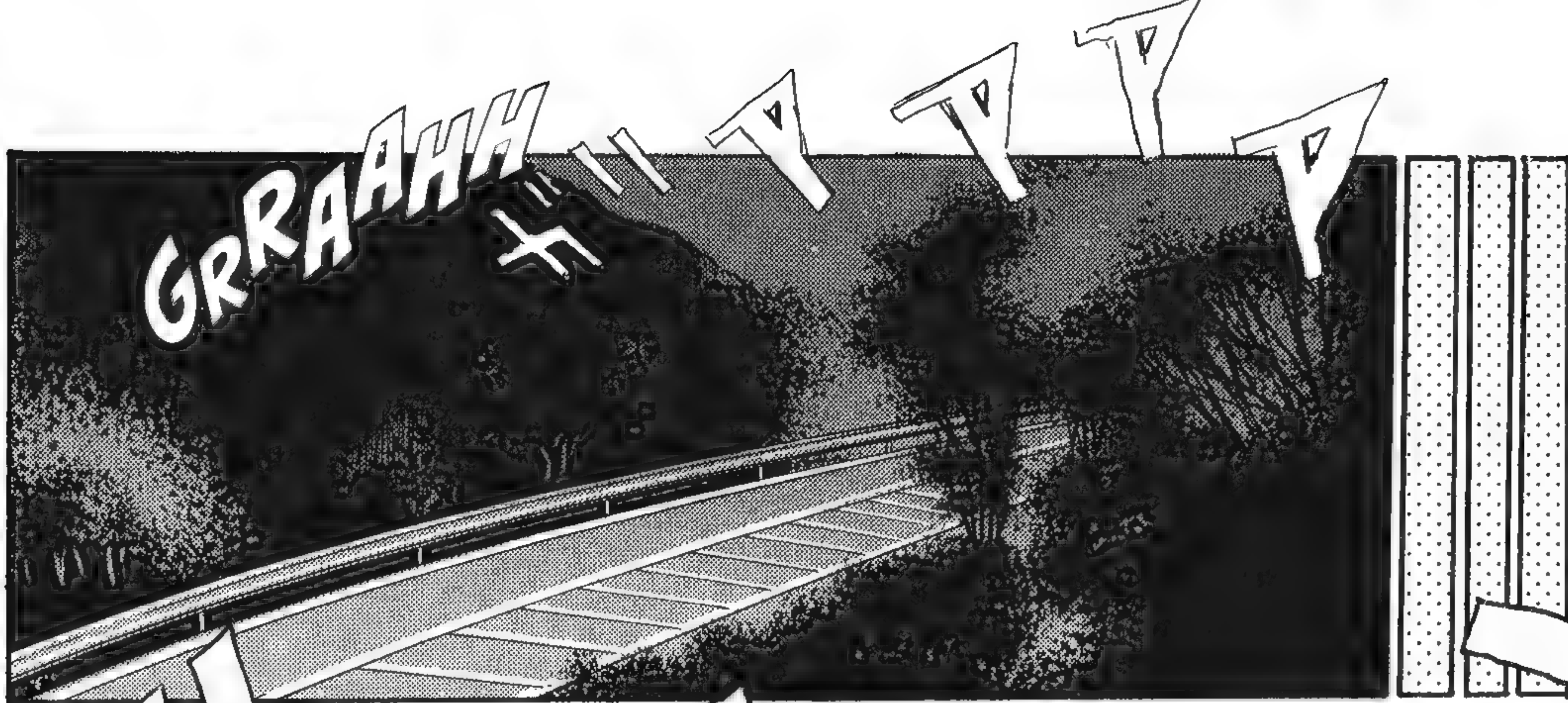
ONE OF THESE  
DAYS, YOU GUYS  
WILL BE BEHIND  
THE WHEEL, AND  
THEN YOU'LL SEE  
WHAT I MEAN.

CALL  
IT THE  
RACERS'  
CODE...







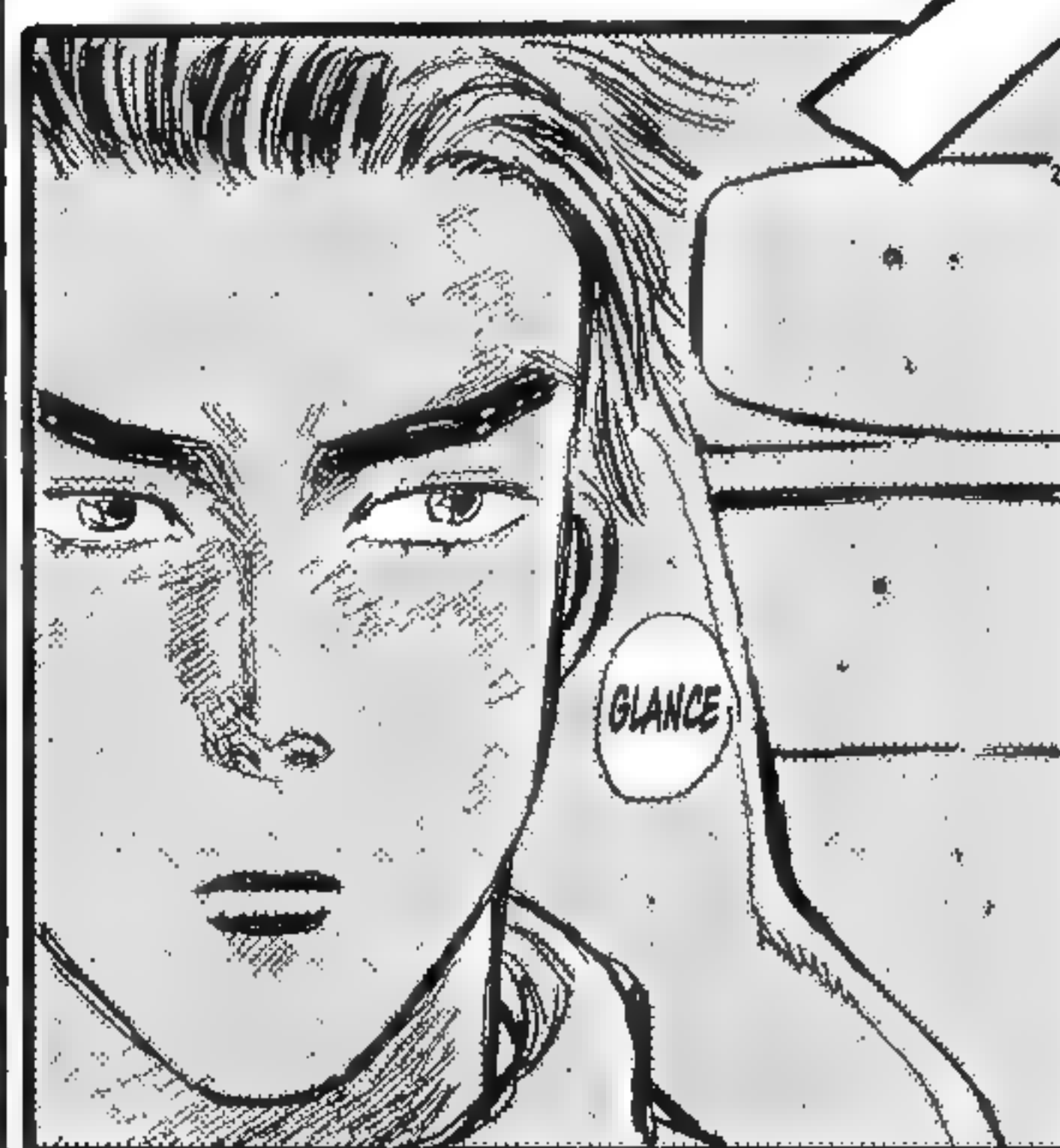


FINE.  
I'LL CUT  
'EM A BREAK.  
LET OFF THE  
ACCELERATOR  
A BIT.



THE  
DOWN-  
HILL'S  
TOUGH.

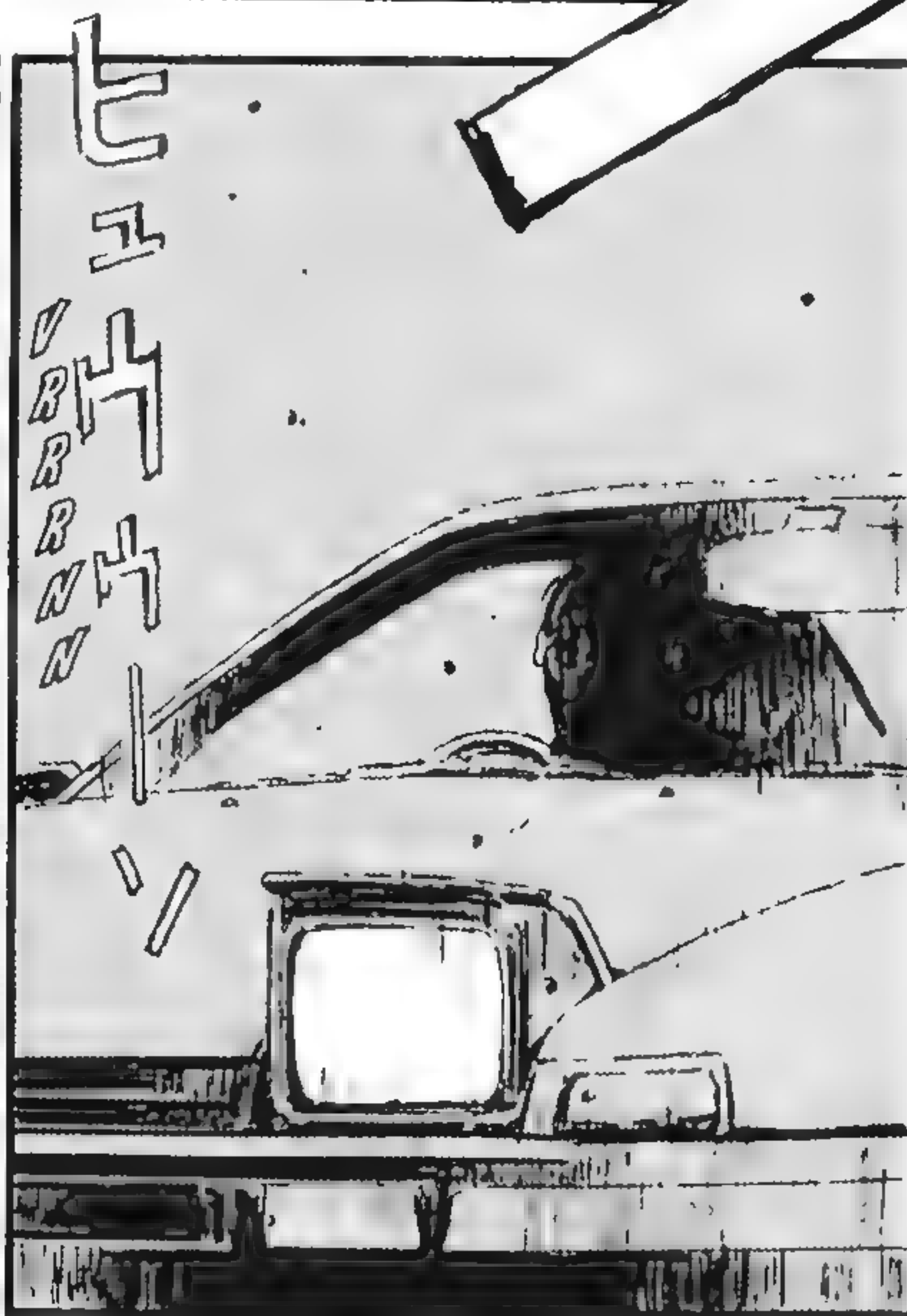
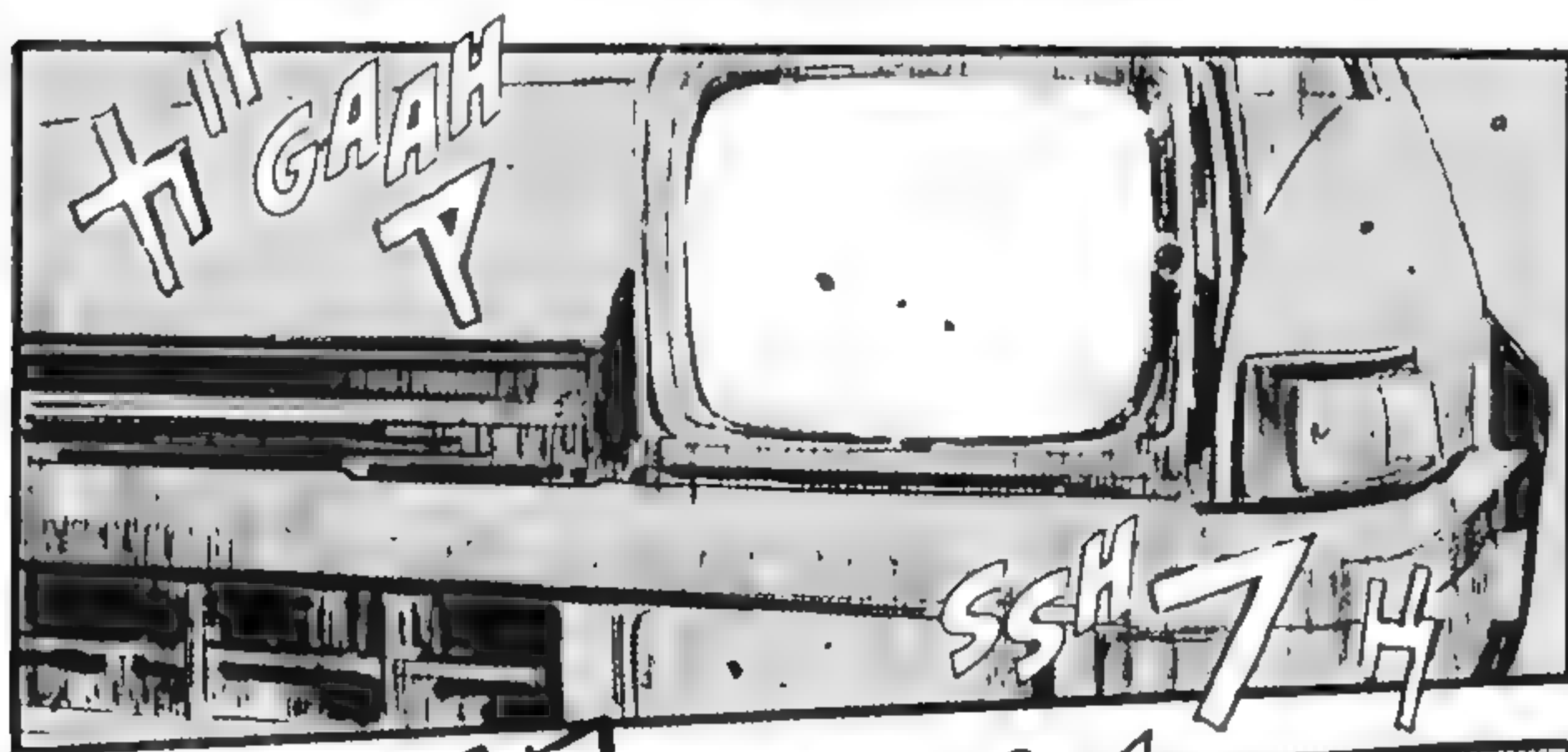
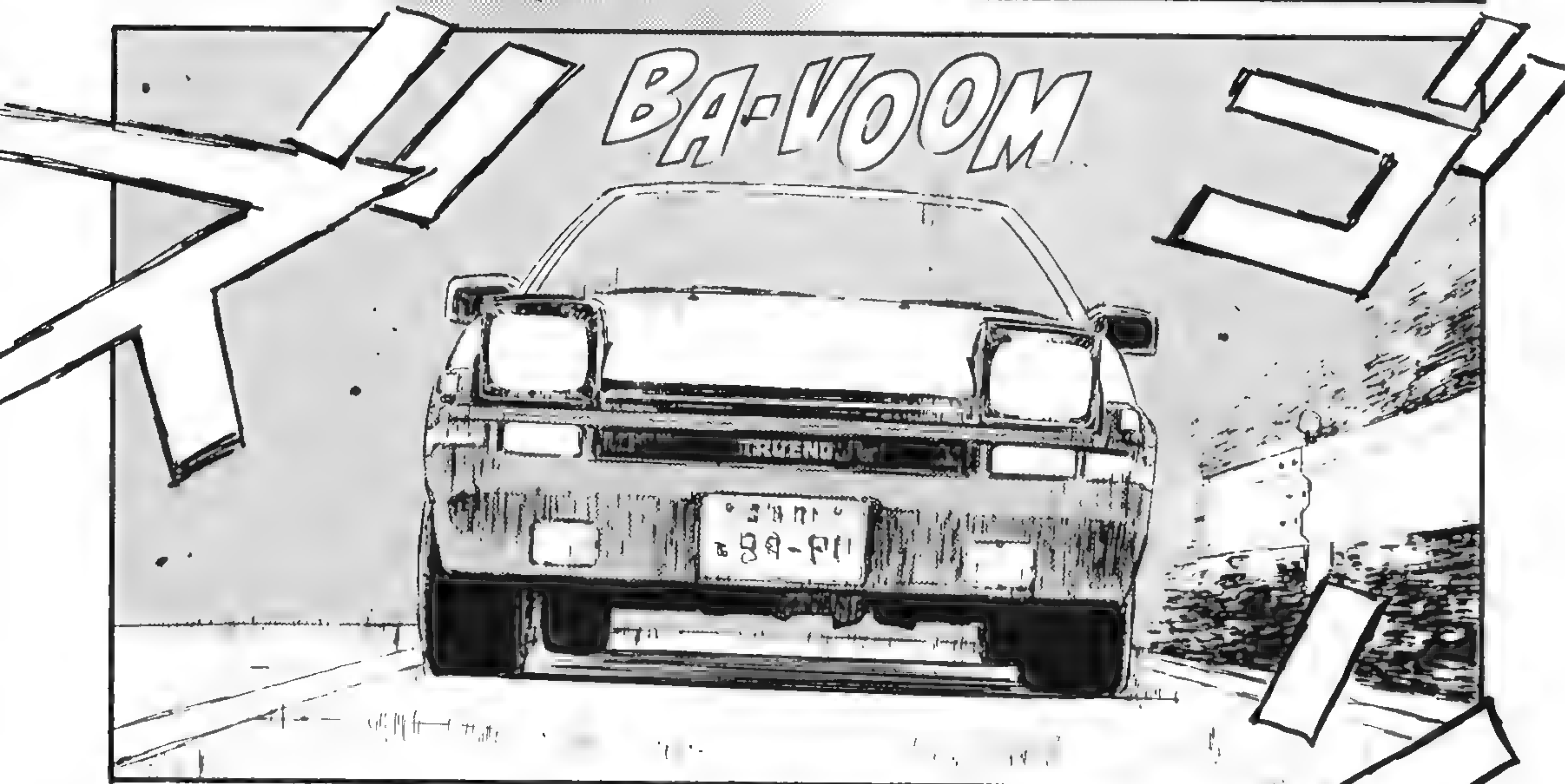
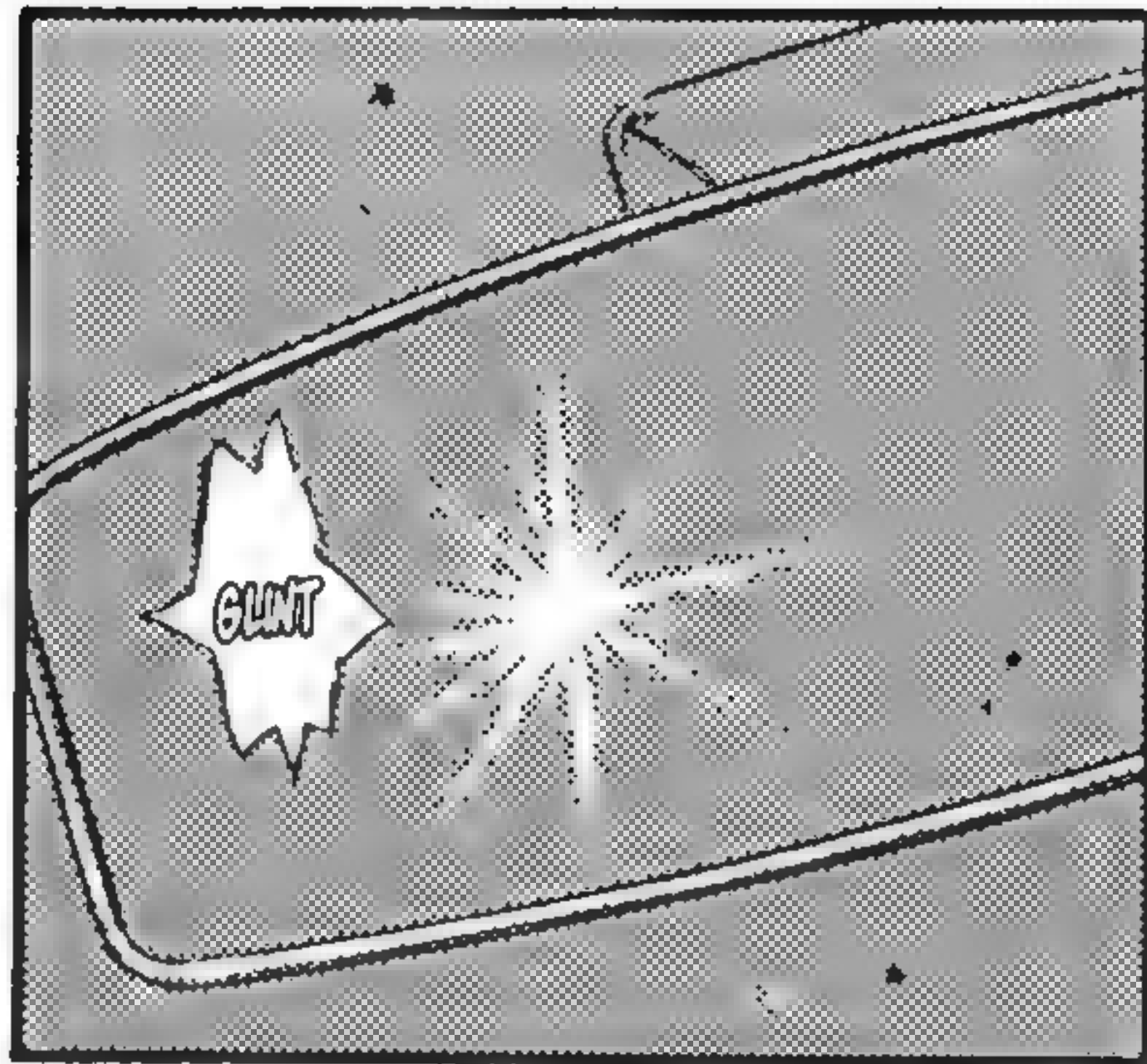
I TURN  
UP THE JUICE  
A LITTLE AND  
I'VE ALREADY  
LOST 'EM.  
THOSE GUYS  
STILL HAVE  
A LOT TO  
LEARN.



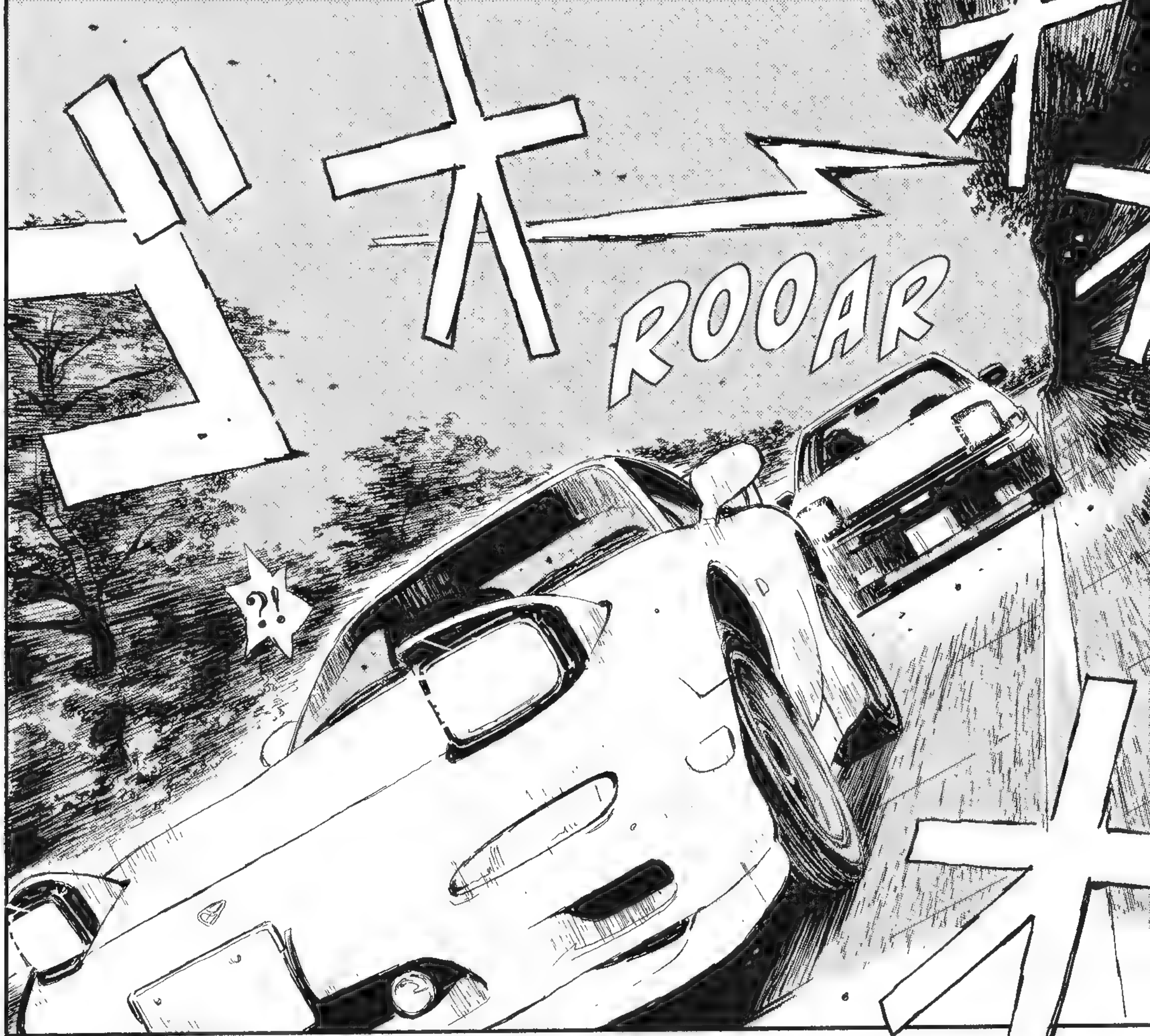


WHO  
IS  
IT?

CAR  
COMING.











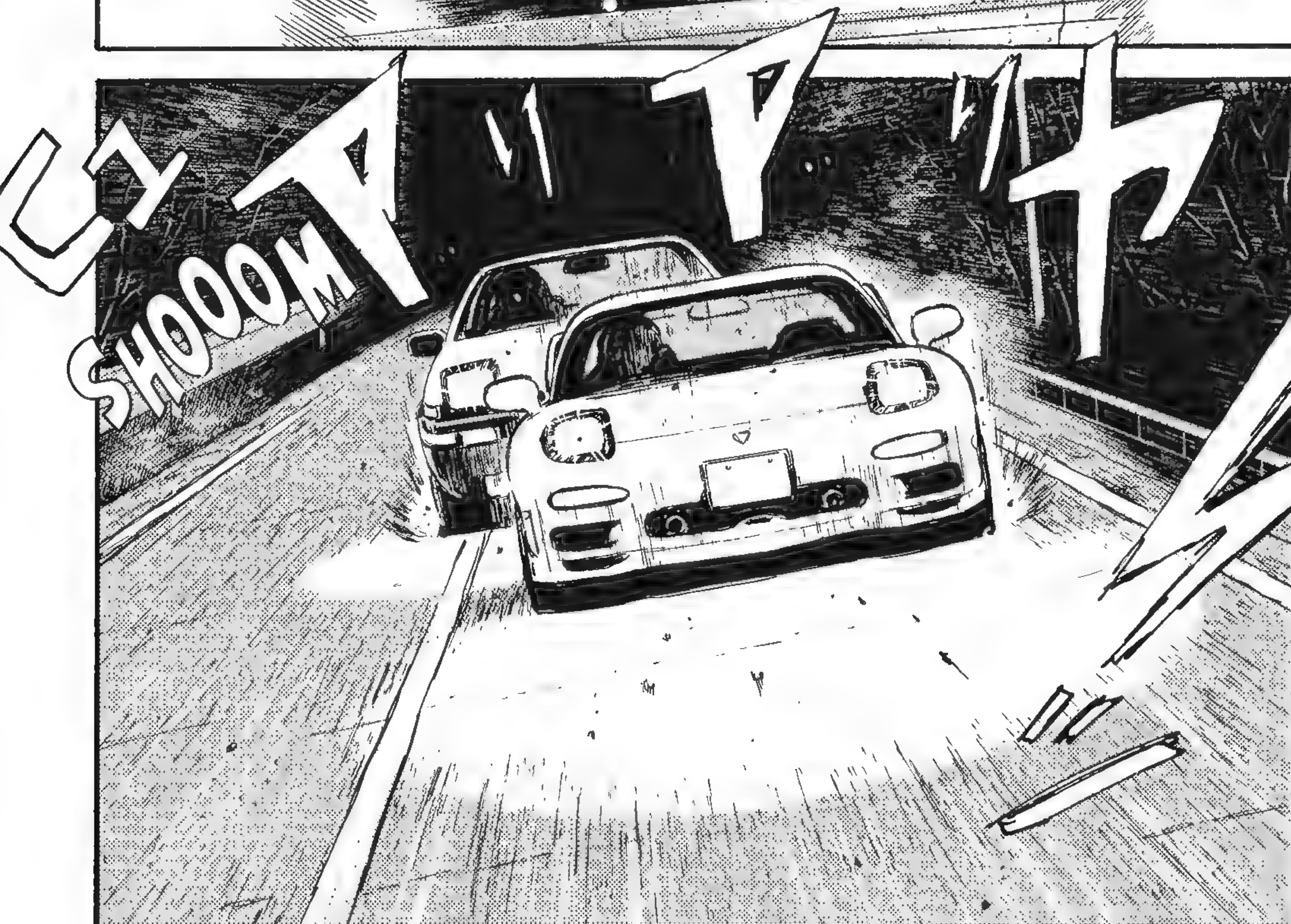
TOO DARK TO TELL  
WHAT MODEL IT IS...  
MAYBE AN MR2 OR  
A 180. SOMETHING  
SMALL, ANYWAY.

WHO IS  
THAT?!



I'LL DUST  
HIM IN TWO  
CORNERS!

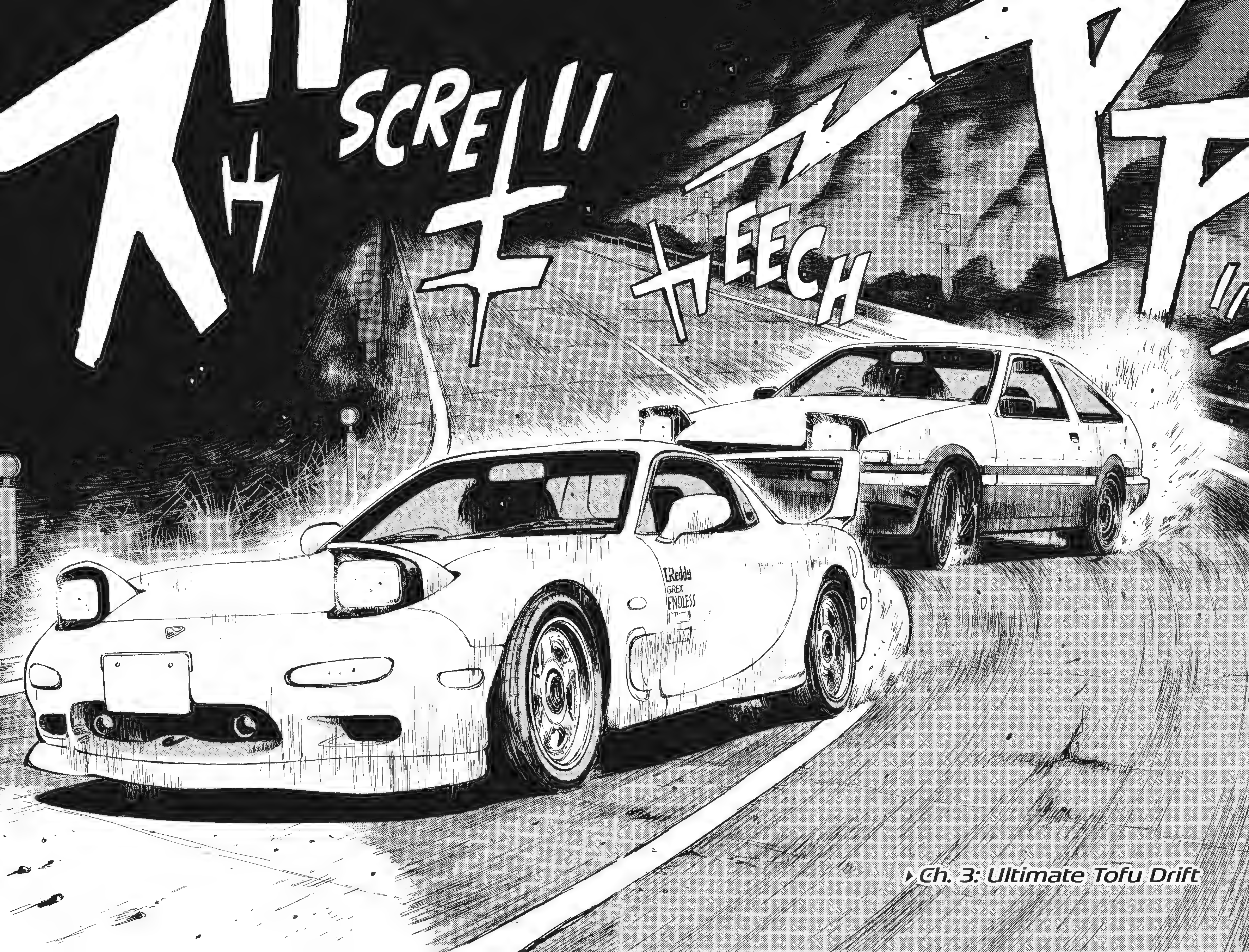
WELL,  
I'M  
GAME!



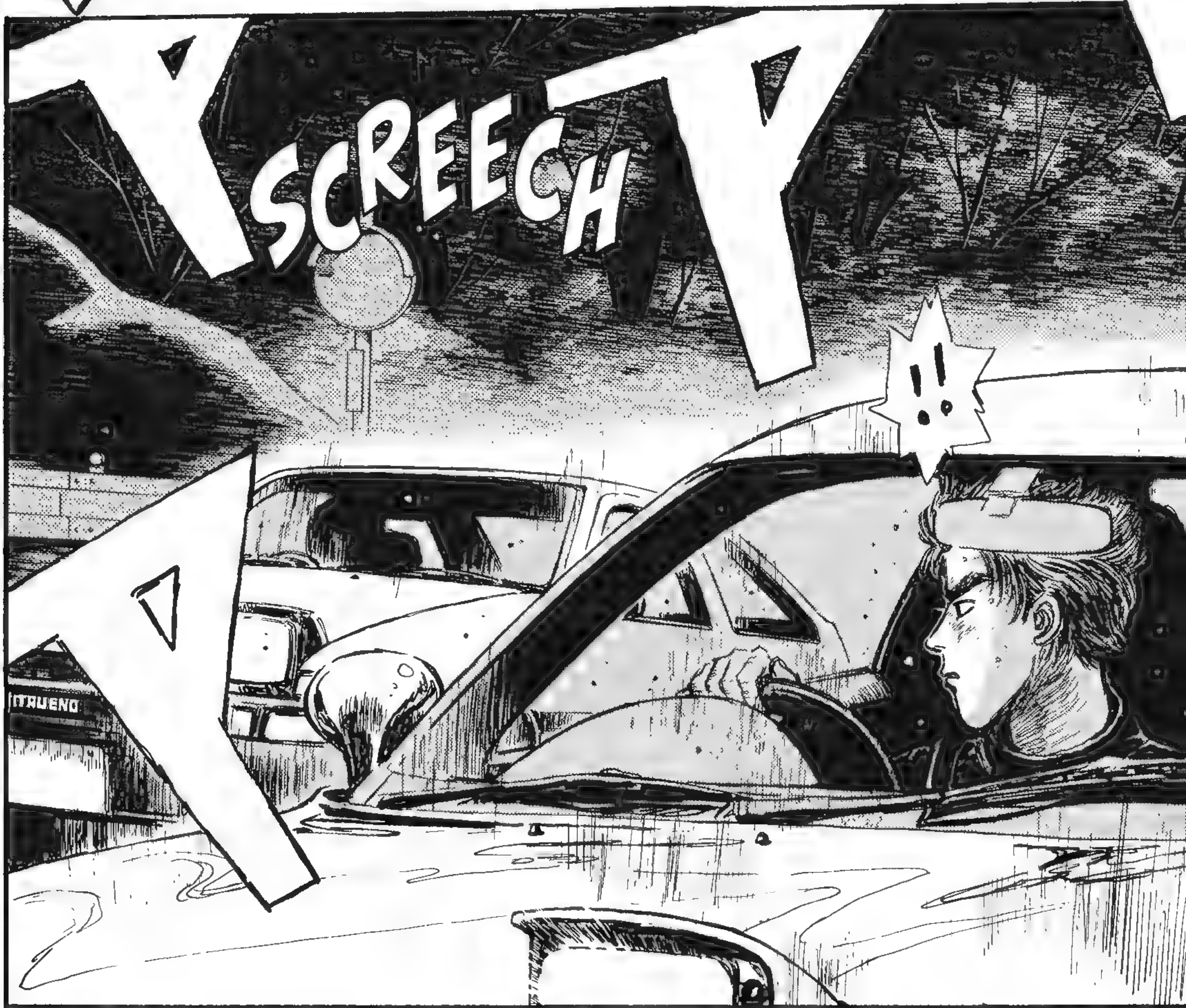
SHOOON

TA

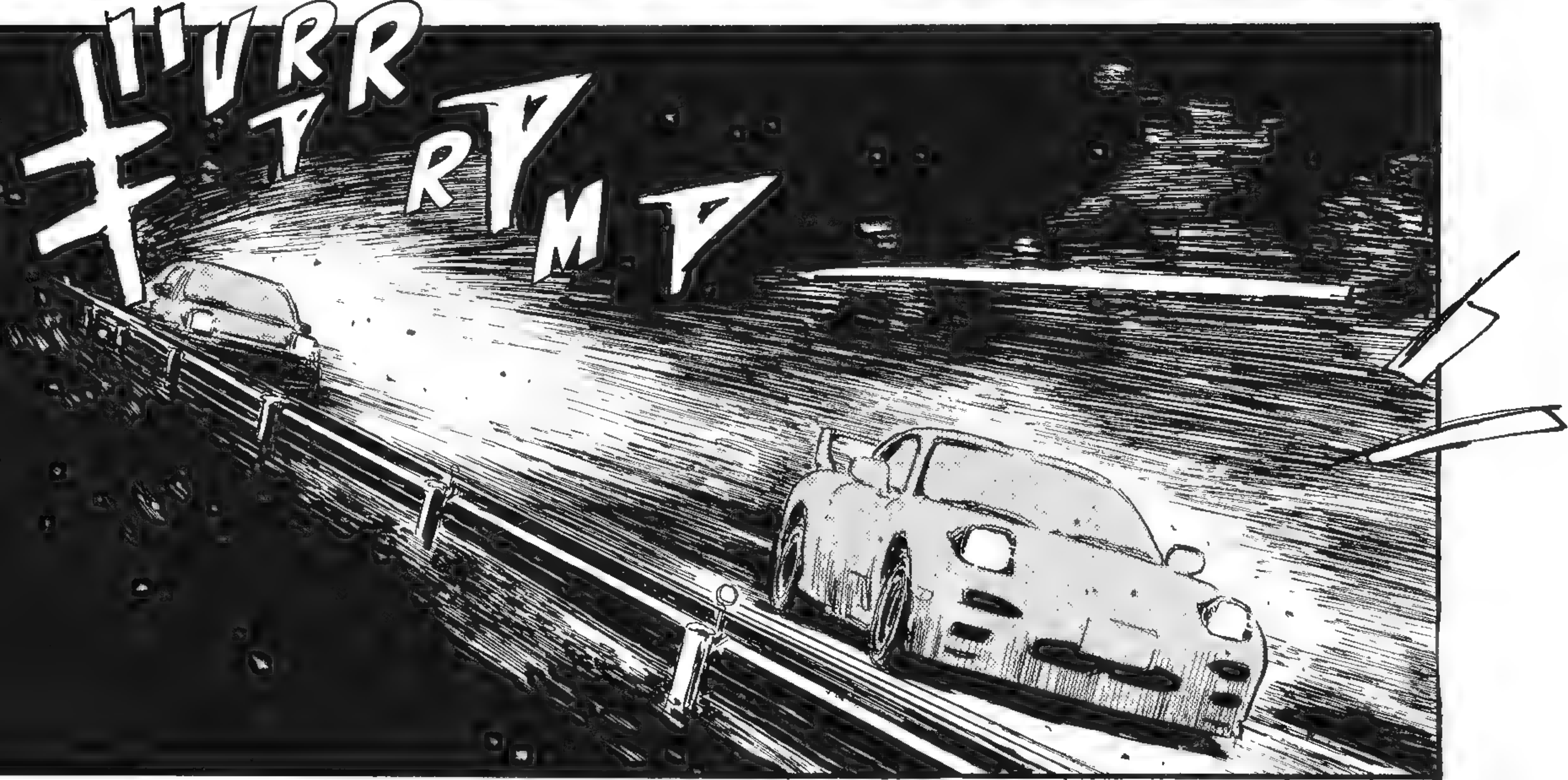
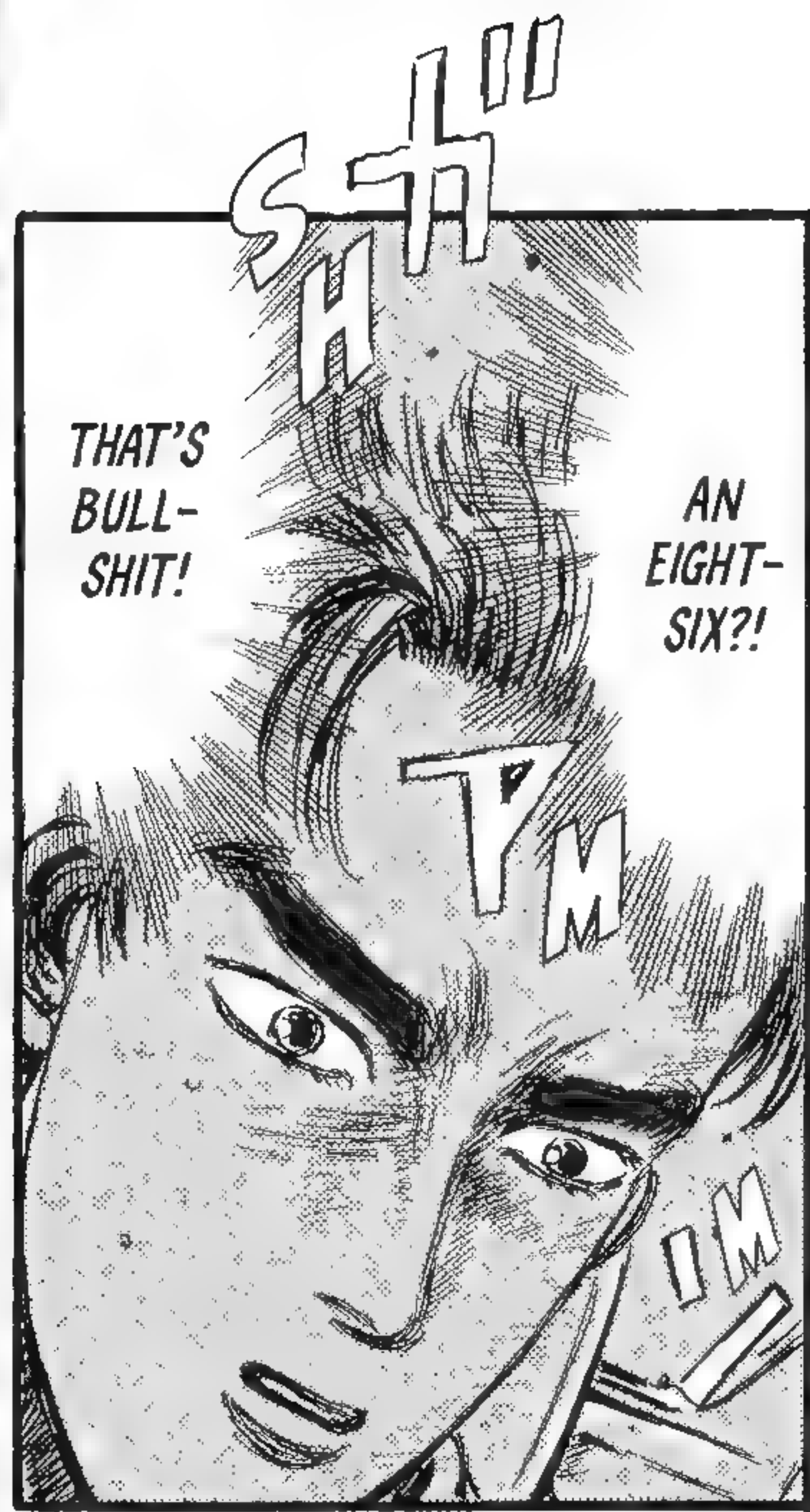










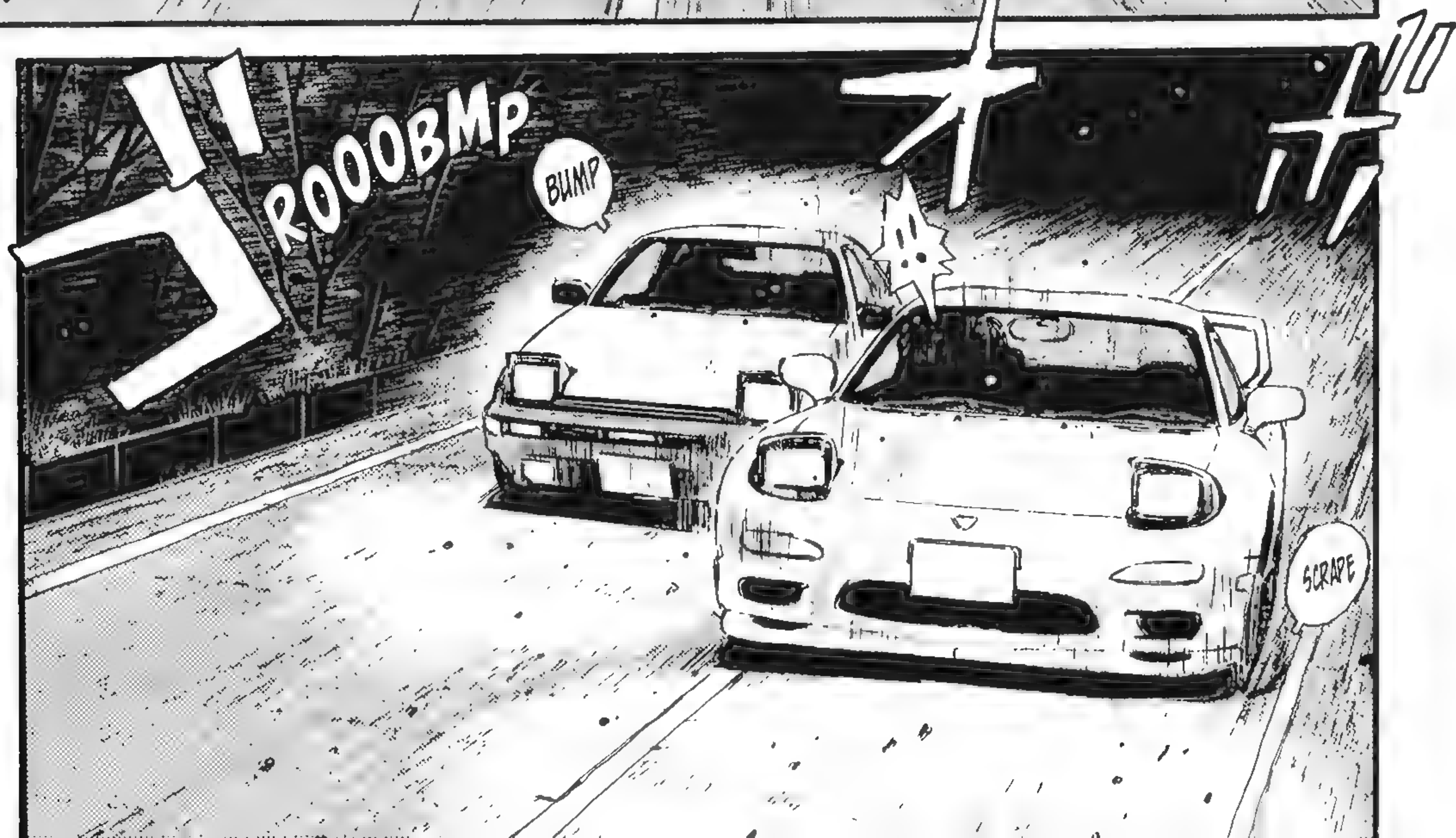
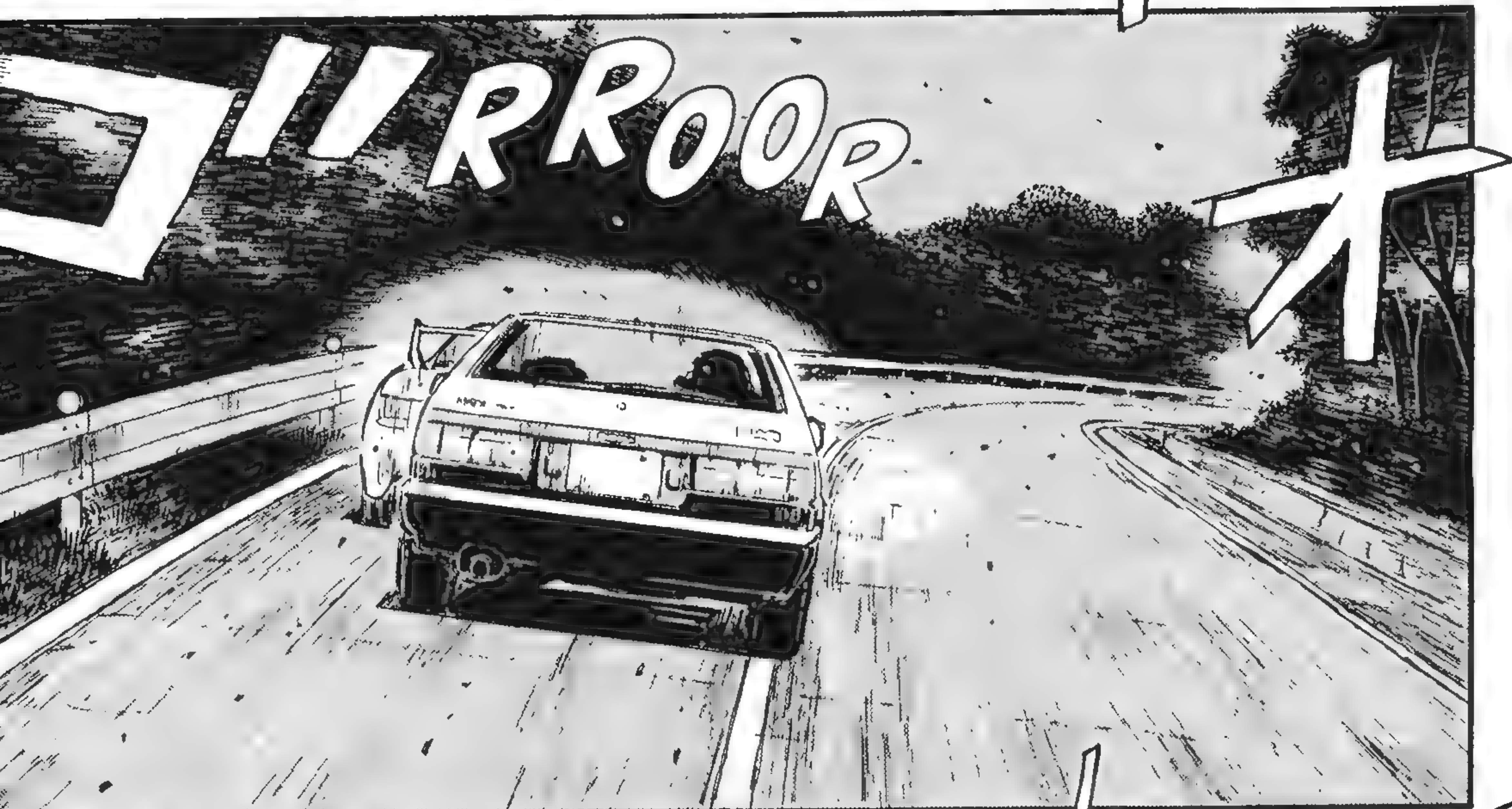


STRAIGHTS BELONG TO THE FD!













THE LAZY  
RIGHT-  
HANDER  
FAKES YOU  
OUT...  
THERE'S  
AN ALMOST  
HAIRPIN  
LEFT RIGHT  
AFTER!

DOESN'T HE  
KNOW WHAT'S  
COMING?! IF  
HE DOESN'T  
SLOW DOWN,  
HE'S GONNA  
GO ASS-FIRST  
STRAIGHT INTO  
THE VALLEY!



WELL,  
IT'S HIS  
FUNERAL!!

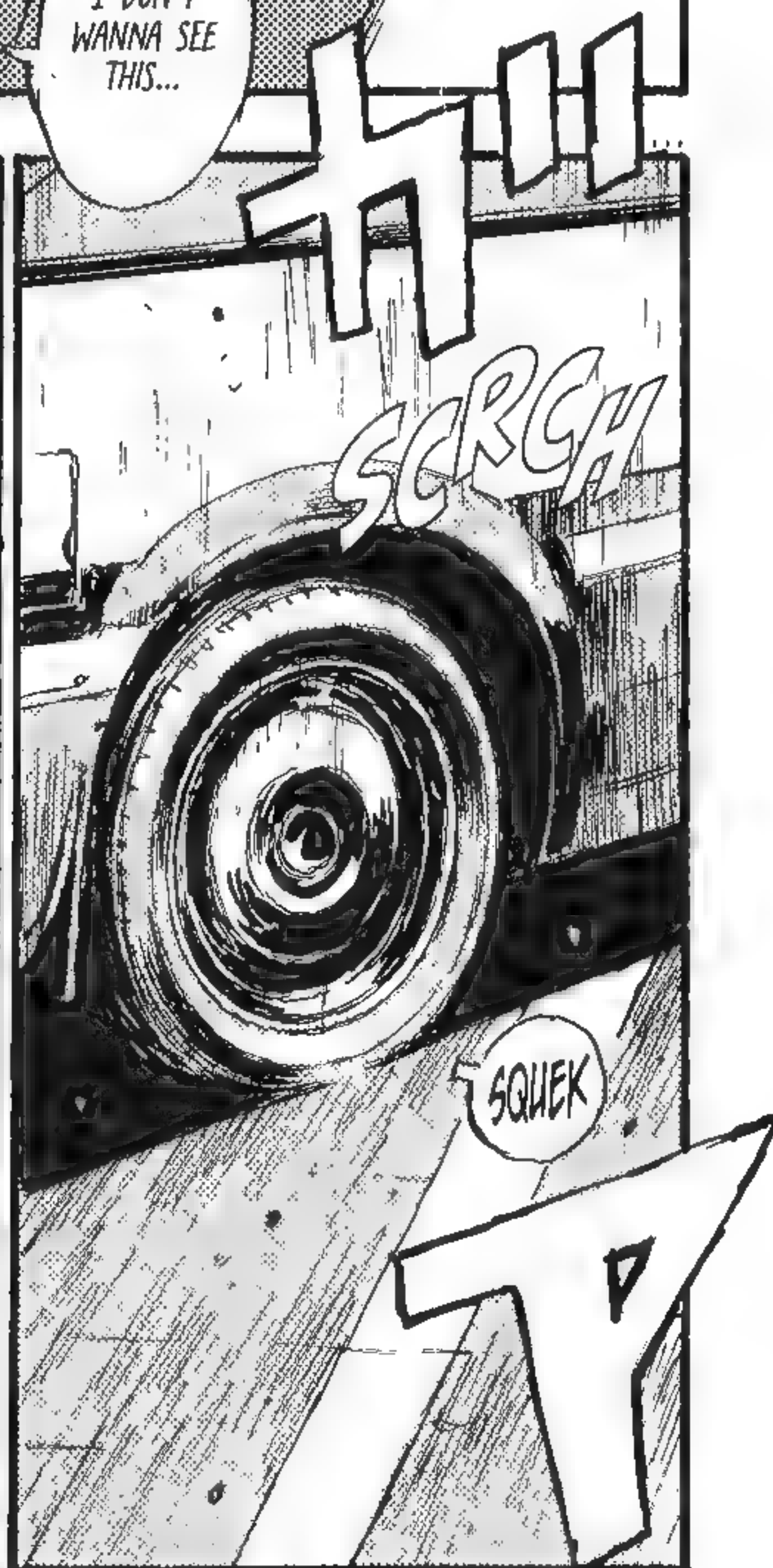


ROAR

HE'S WAY TOO  
HOT. HE DOESN'T  
HAVE ROOM TO  
STRAIGHTEN IT  
OUT AND SLOW  
DOWN!

CENTRIPETAL  
FORCE IS  
PULLING THE  
TAIL OUT. IT'S  
ALL PHYSICS  
NOW.

I DON'T  
WANNA SEE  
THIS...



WHAT THE  
HELL JUST  
HAPPENED?!

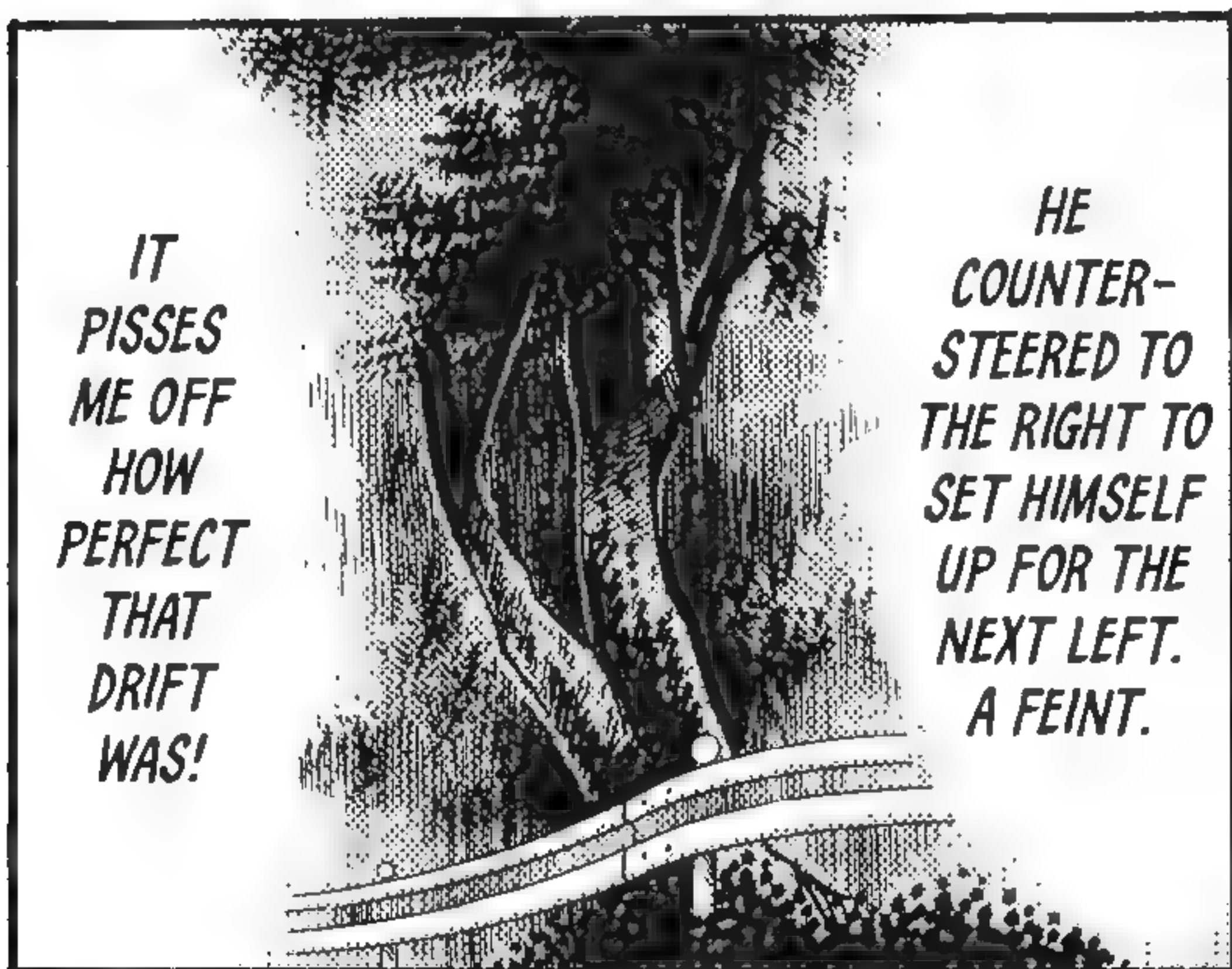
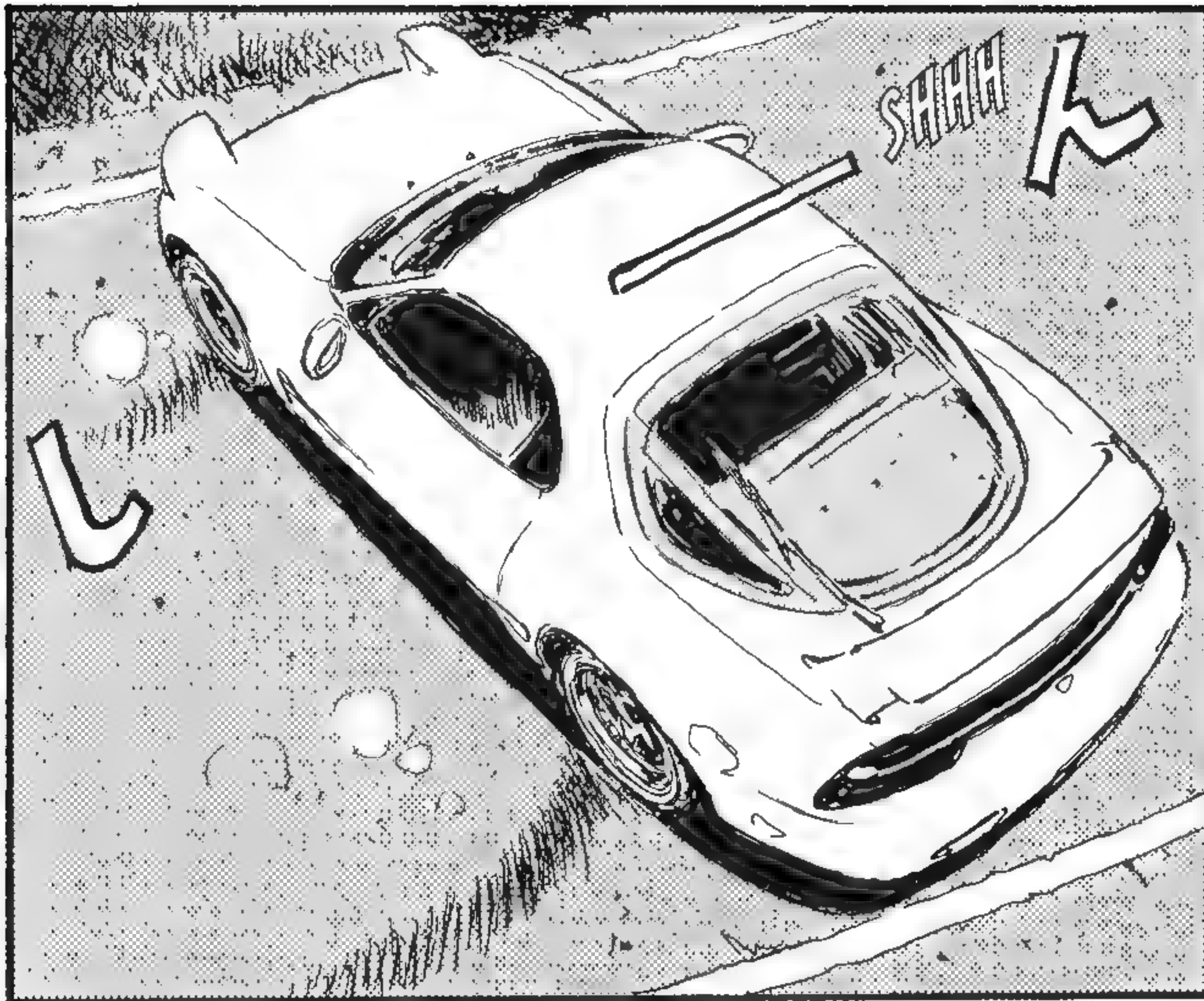






AN  
INERTIA  
DRIFT?!

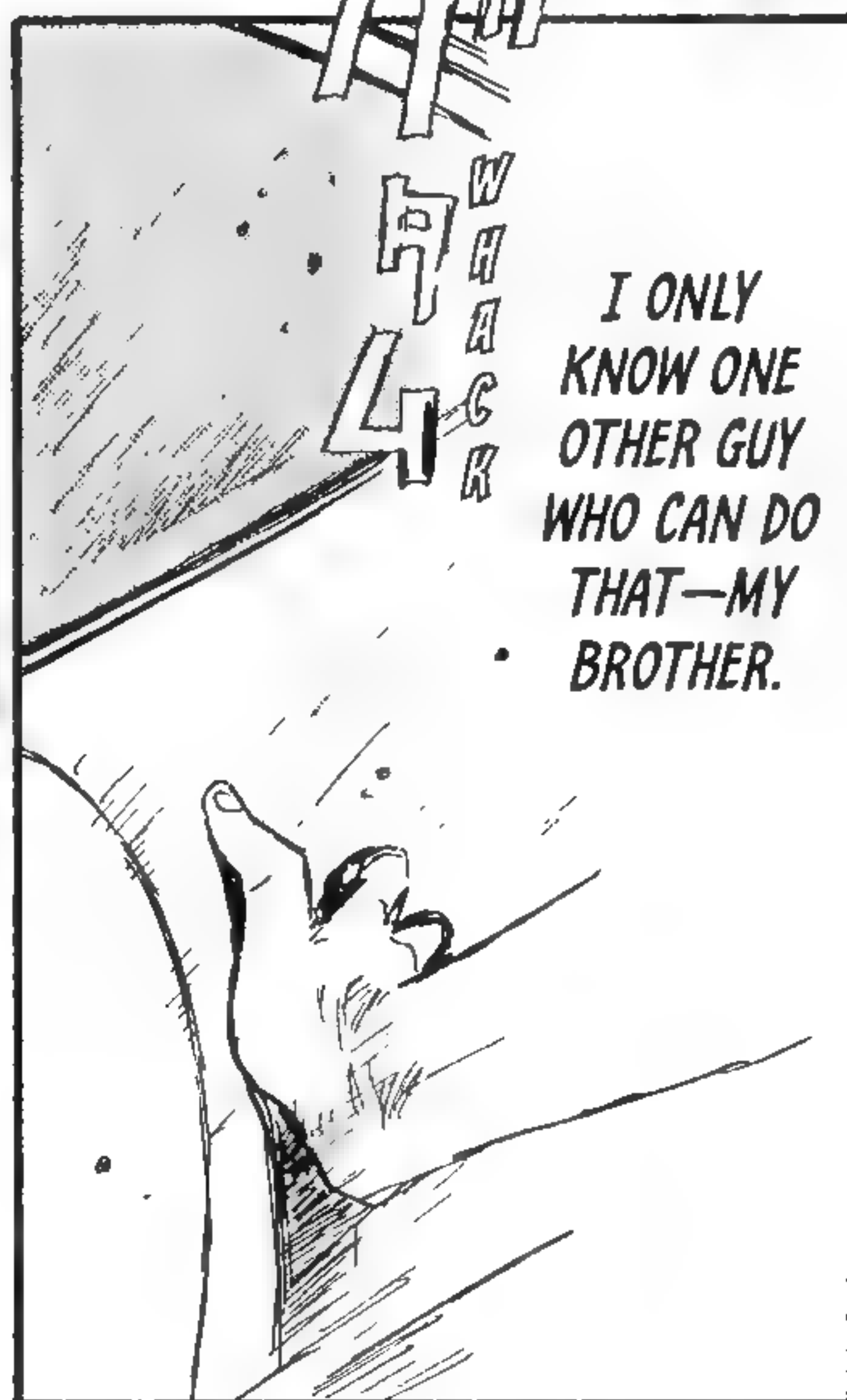
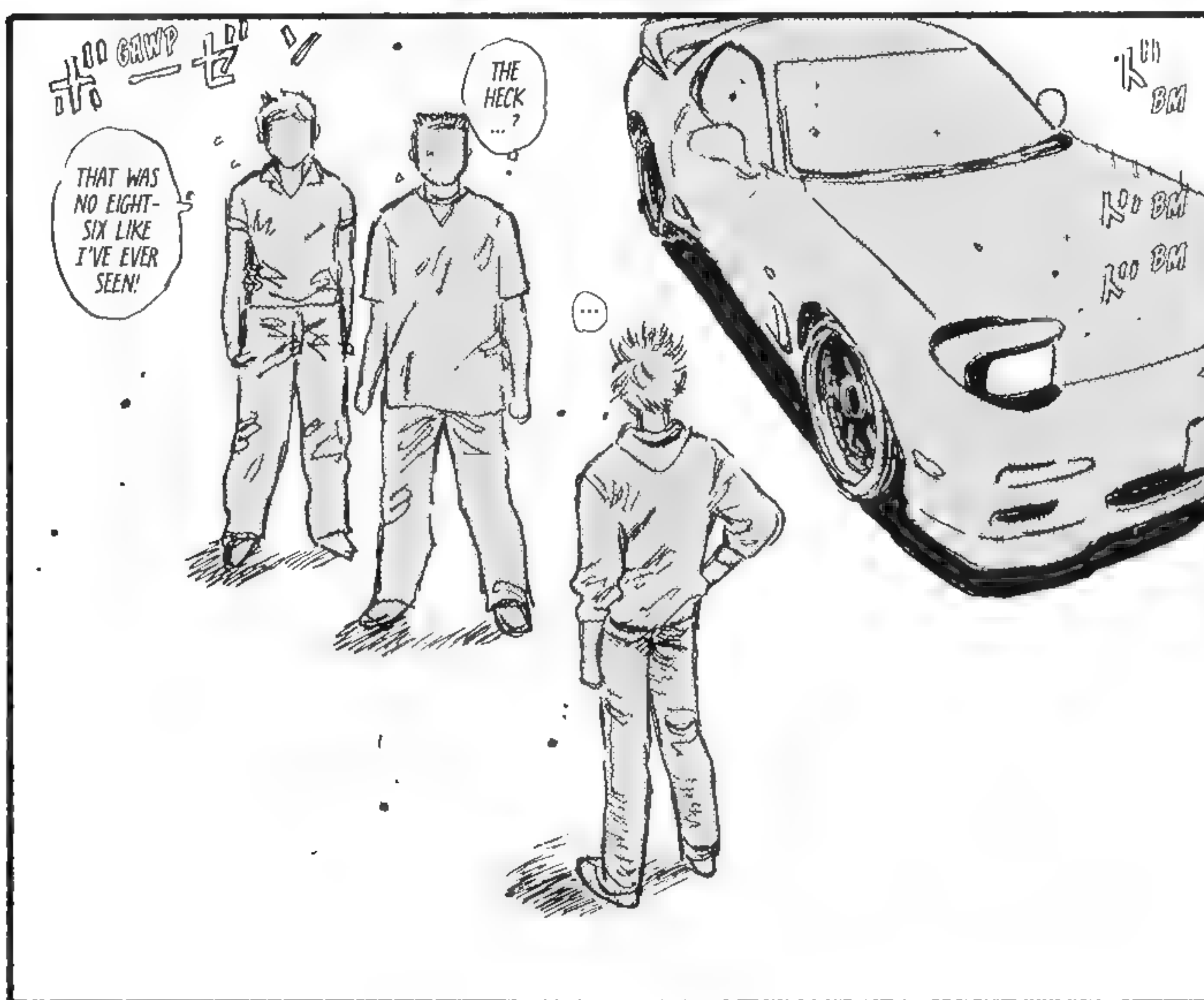




HE COUNTER-STEERED TO THE RIGHT TO SET HIMSELF UP FOR THE NEXT LEFT. A FEINT.

WHO WAS THAT? THE GHOST OF A RACER WHO DIED ON MOUNT AKINA?

UNREAL...





WHO THE  
HELL WAS  
DRIVING  
IT?



MY BRAND-NEW,  
PURPOSE-TUNED  
FD, LEFT FOR DEAD  
BY A BEATER EIGHT-  
SIX FROM THE LAST  
DECADE. I'LL NEVER  
BE ABLE TO LOOK  
MY BRO IN THE EYE  
AGAIN.

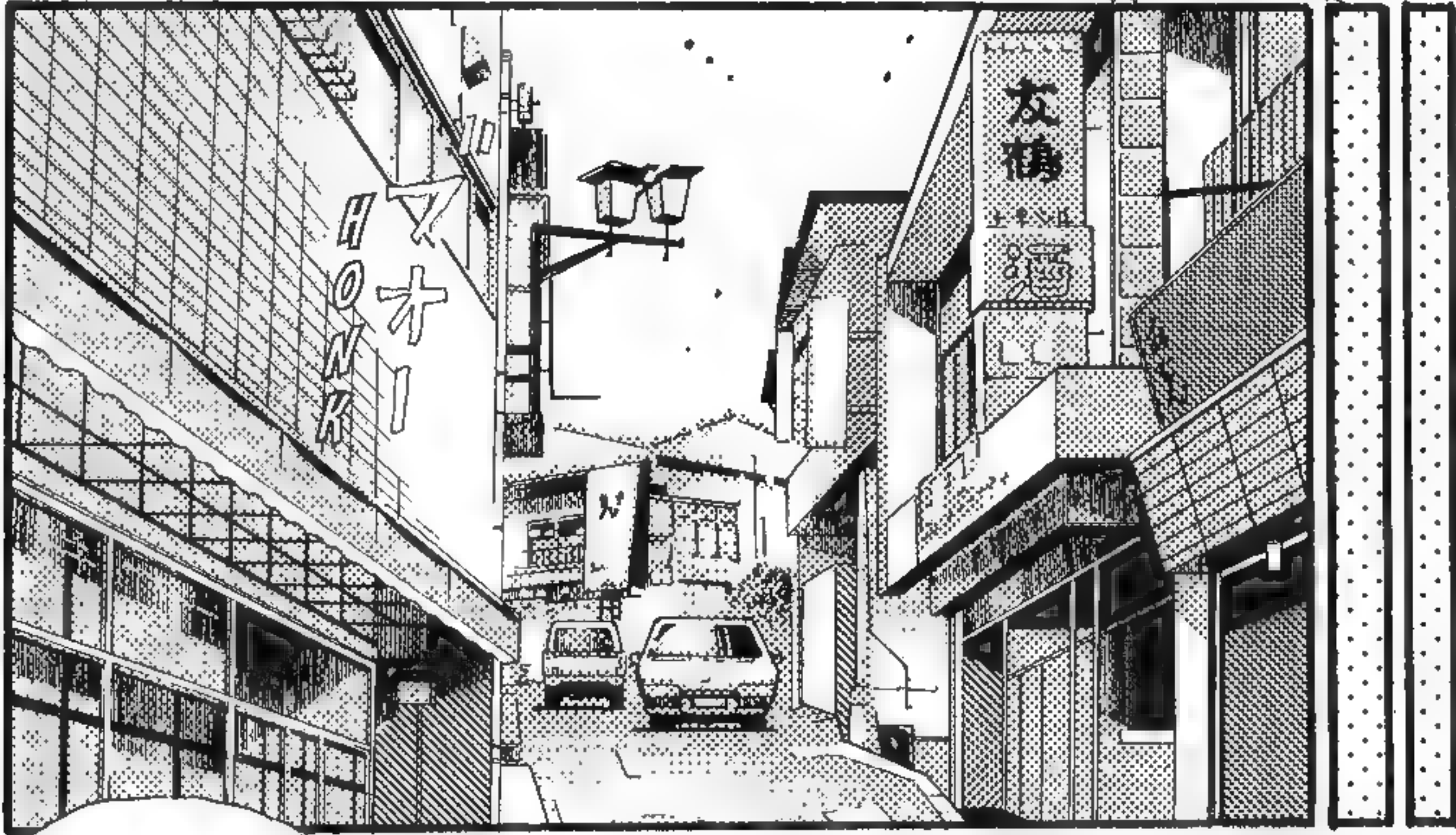
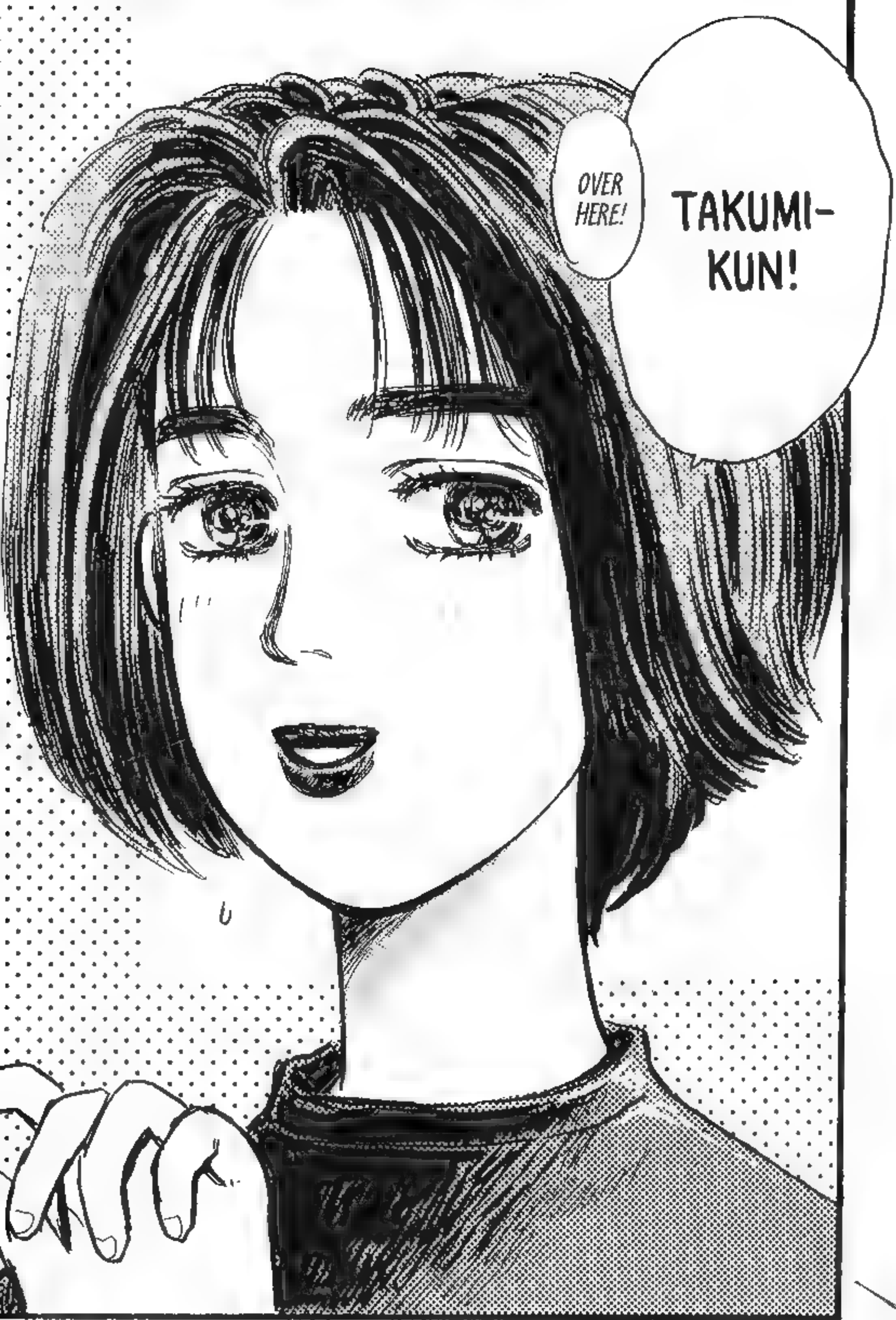


Sign: Kishigon—Parking, Cars Only

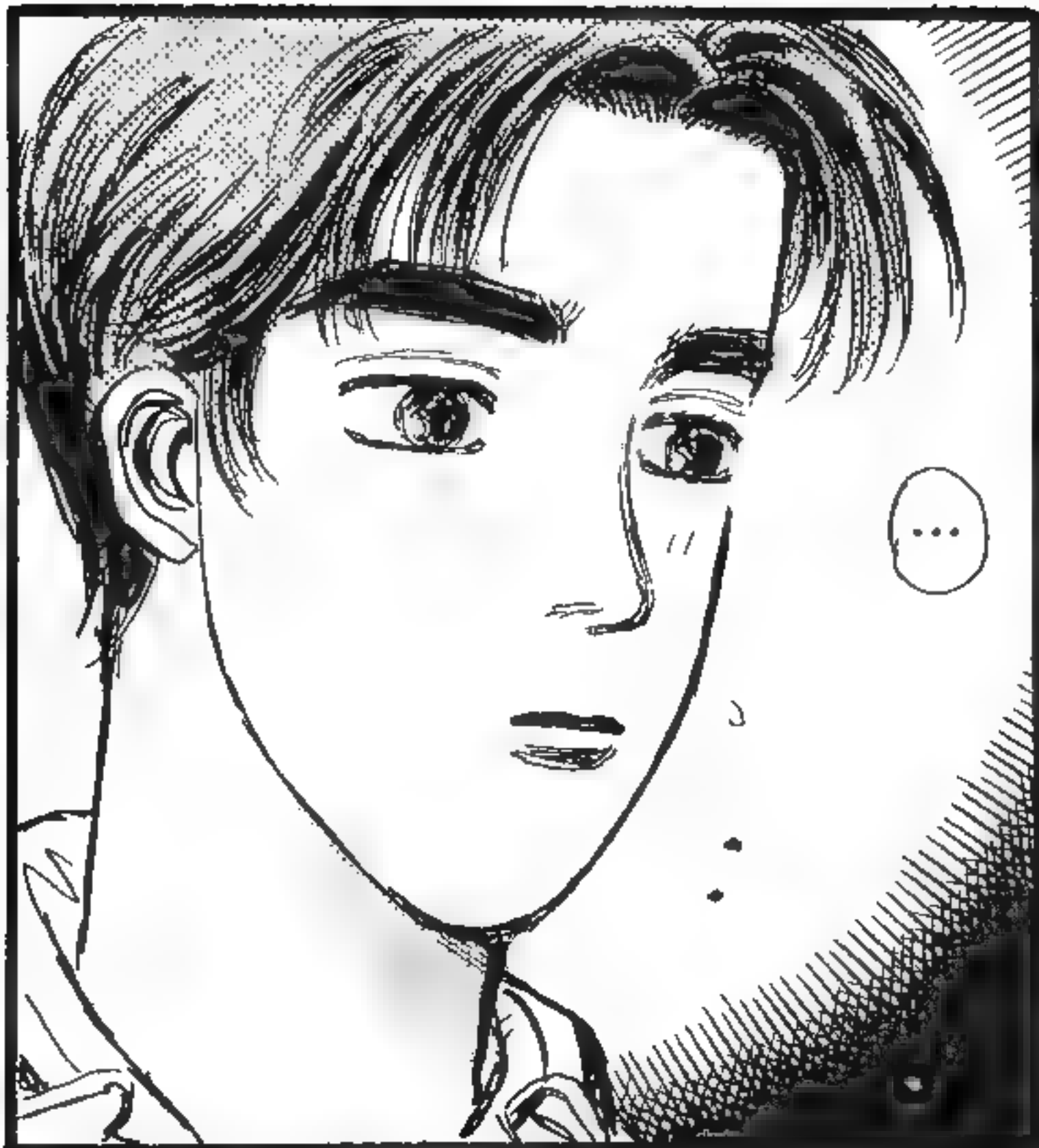




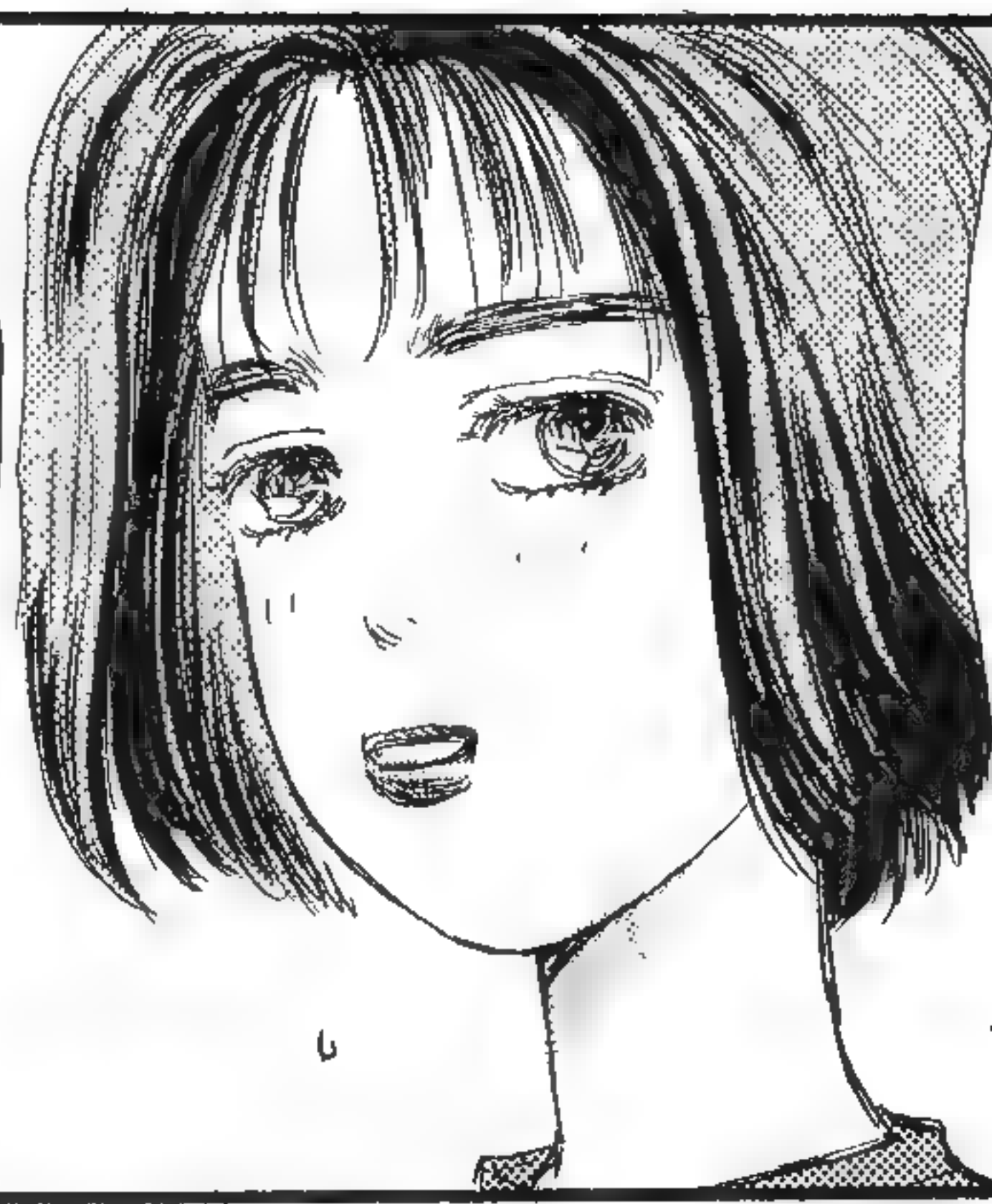








THAT  
I PATCHED  
THINGS UP  
WITH YOU,  
I MEAN.

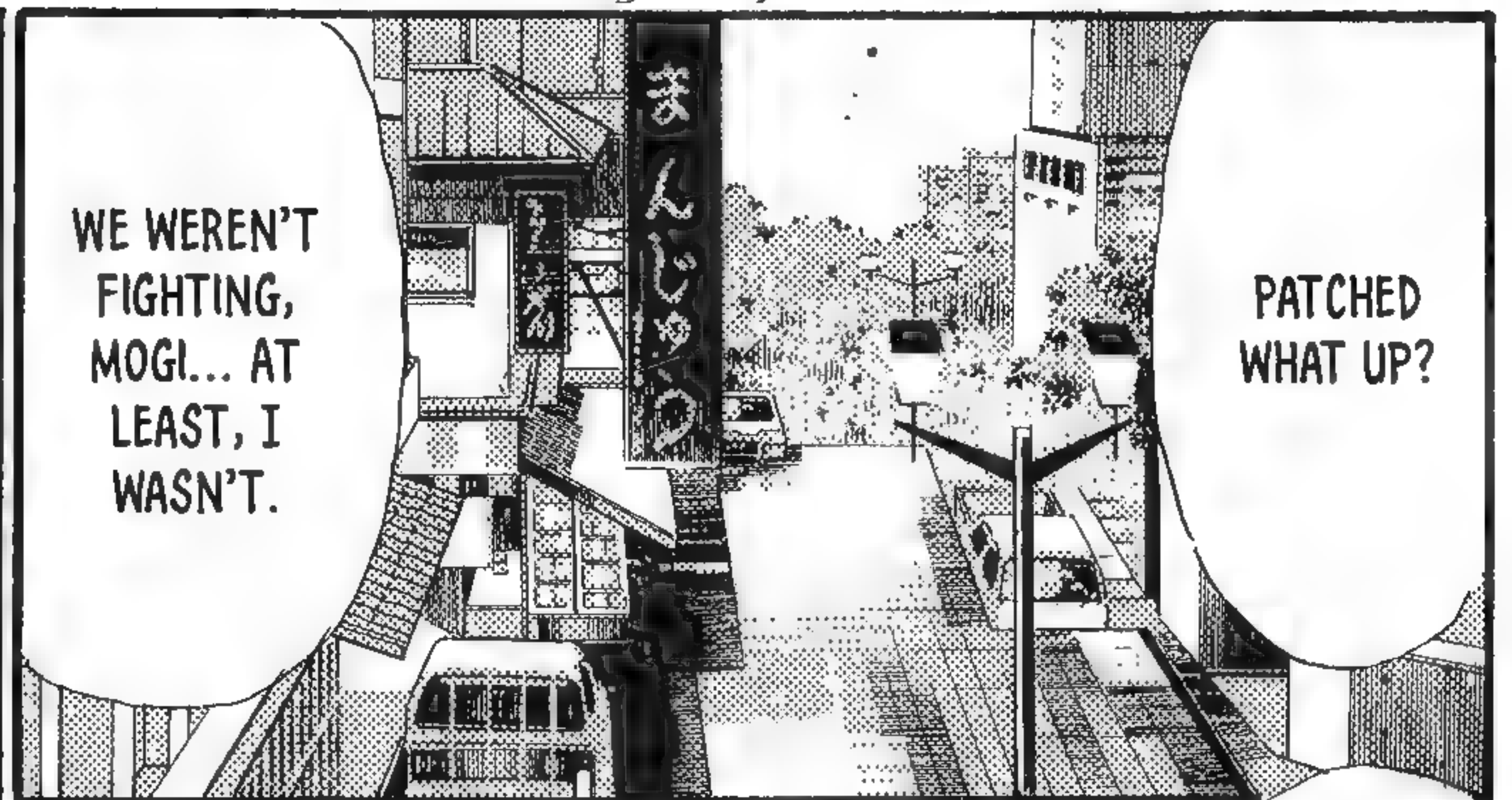


YEAH,  
WELL... I'VE  
BEEN THINK-  
ING. MAYBE  
IT'S ABOUT  
TIME.

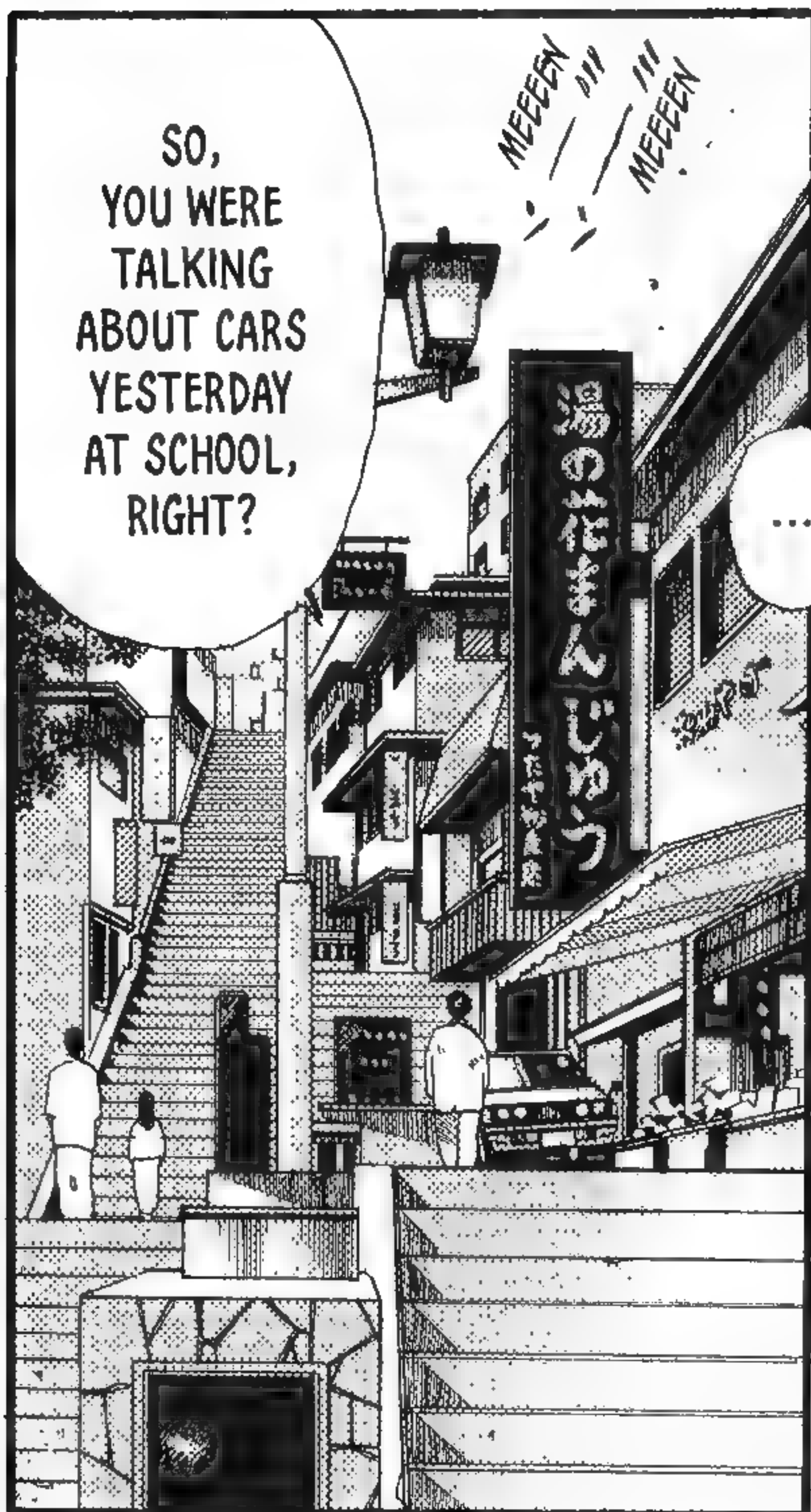
*Sign: Manju*



WE WEREN'T  
FIGHTING,  
MOGI... AT  
LEAST, I  
WASN'T.

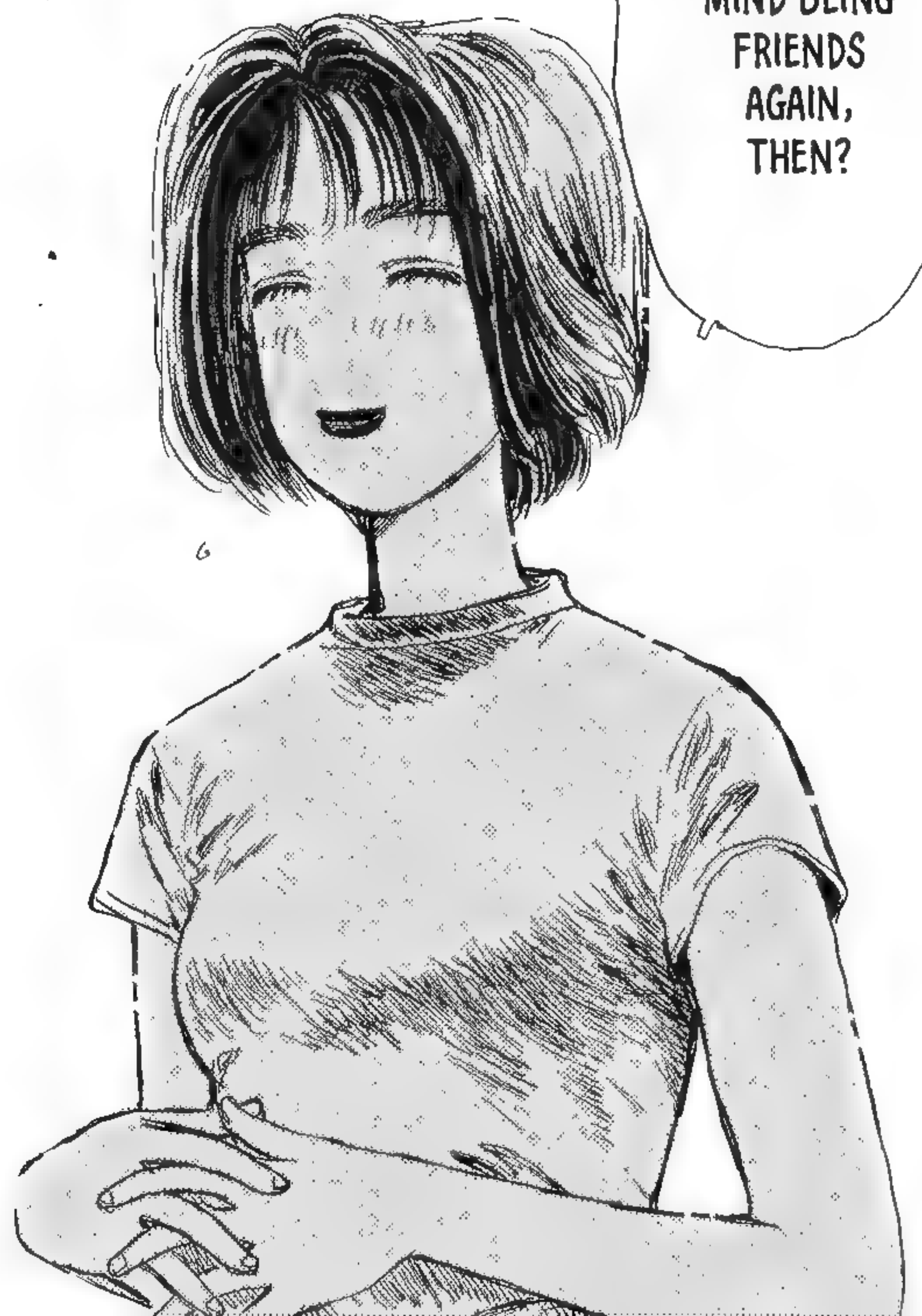


PATCHED  
WHAT UP?



SO,  
YOU WERE  
TALKING  
ABOUT CARS  
YESTERDAY  
AT SCHOOL,  
RIGHT?

*Sign: Yu-no-Hana Manju*




GREAT!

YOU DON'T  
MIND BEING  
FRIENDS  
AGAIN,  
THEN?






UH-HUH.  
JUST GOT  
IT.



I WAS  
WONDERING...  
DO YOU HAVE  
YOUR LICENSE,  
TAKUMI-  
KUN?

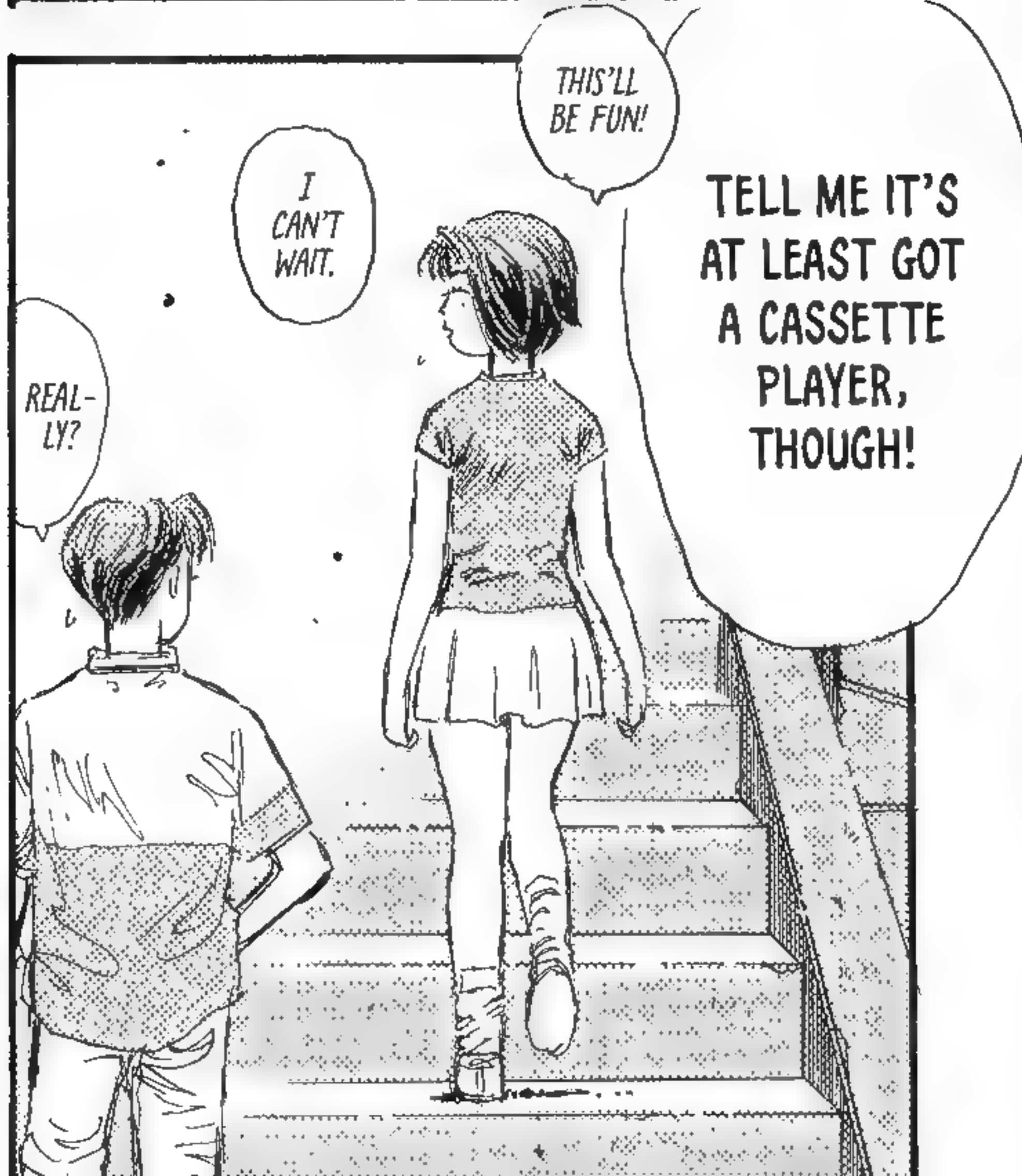


IF YOU WANT,  
BUT I SHOULD  
WARN YOU. IT'S  
NOT, LIKE, A  
NICE CAR. JUST  
AN OLD HUNK  
OF JUNK WE USE  
FOR OUR SHOP.



NEAT!  
HOW ABOUT  
WE GO FOR A  
DRIVE, THEN?  
ON SUMMER  
BREAK.

YOU CAN  
BRING THE  
CAR AND  
I'LL BRING  
LUNCH.



REAL-  
LY?

I  
CAN'T  
WAIT.

THIS'LL  
BE FUN!

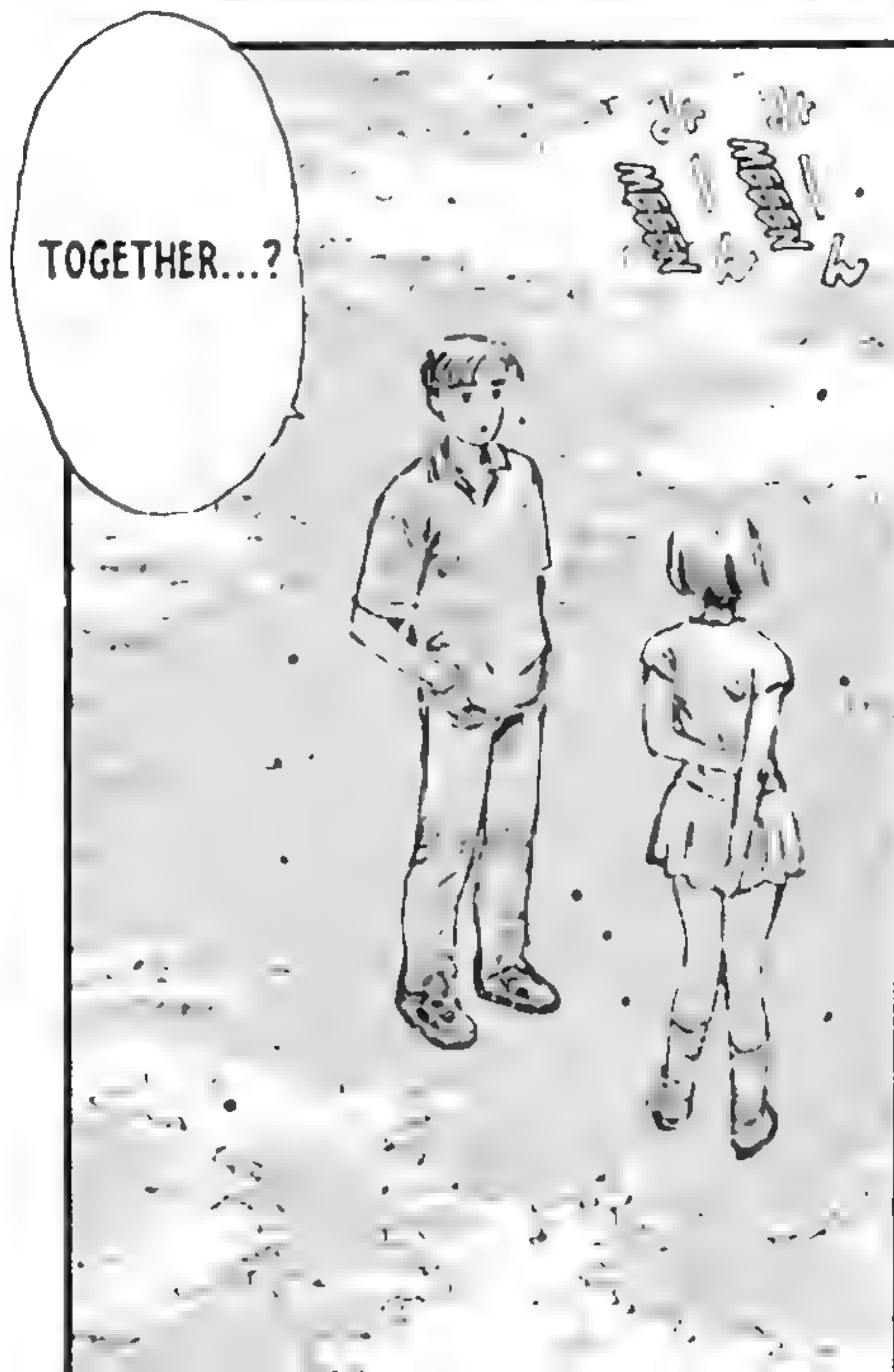
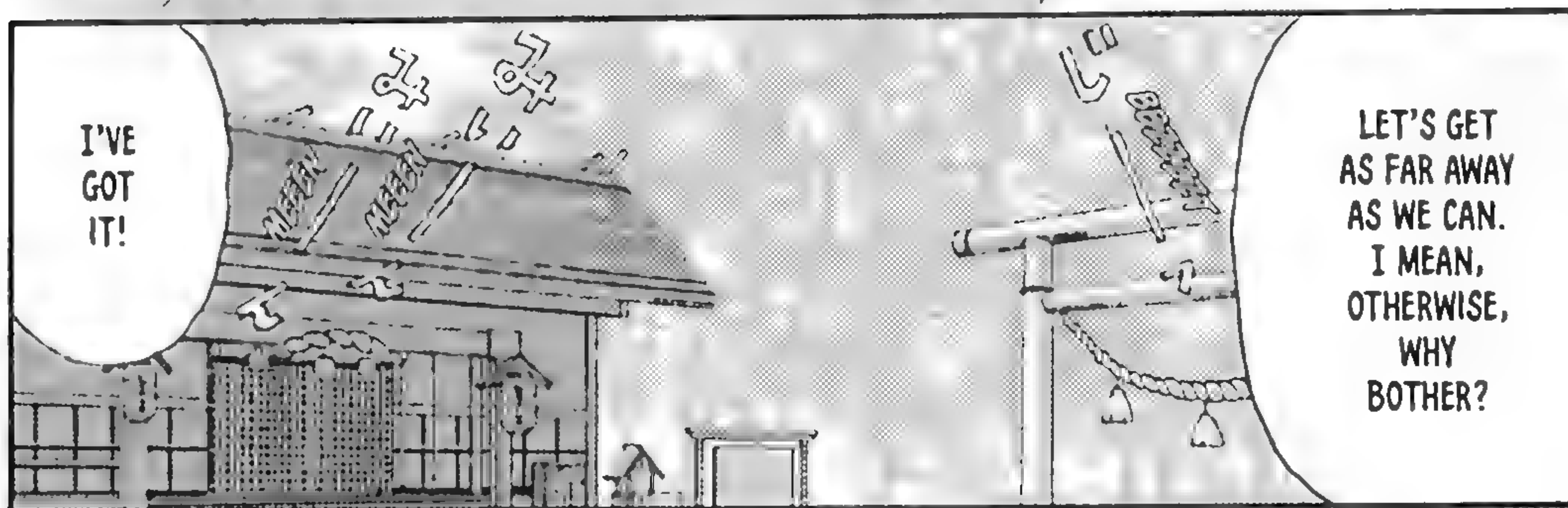
TELL ME IT'S  
AT LEAST GOT  
A CASSETTE  
PLAYER,  
THOUGH!



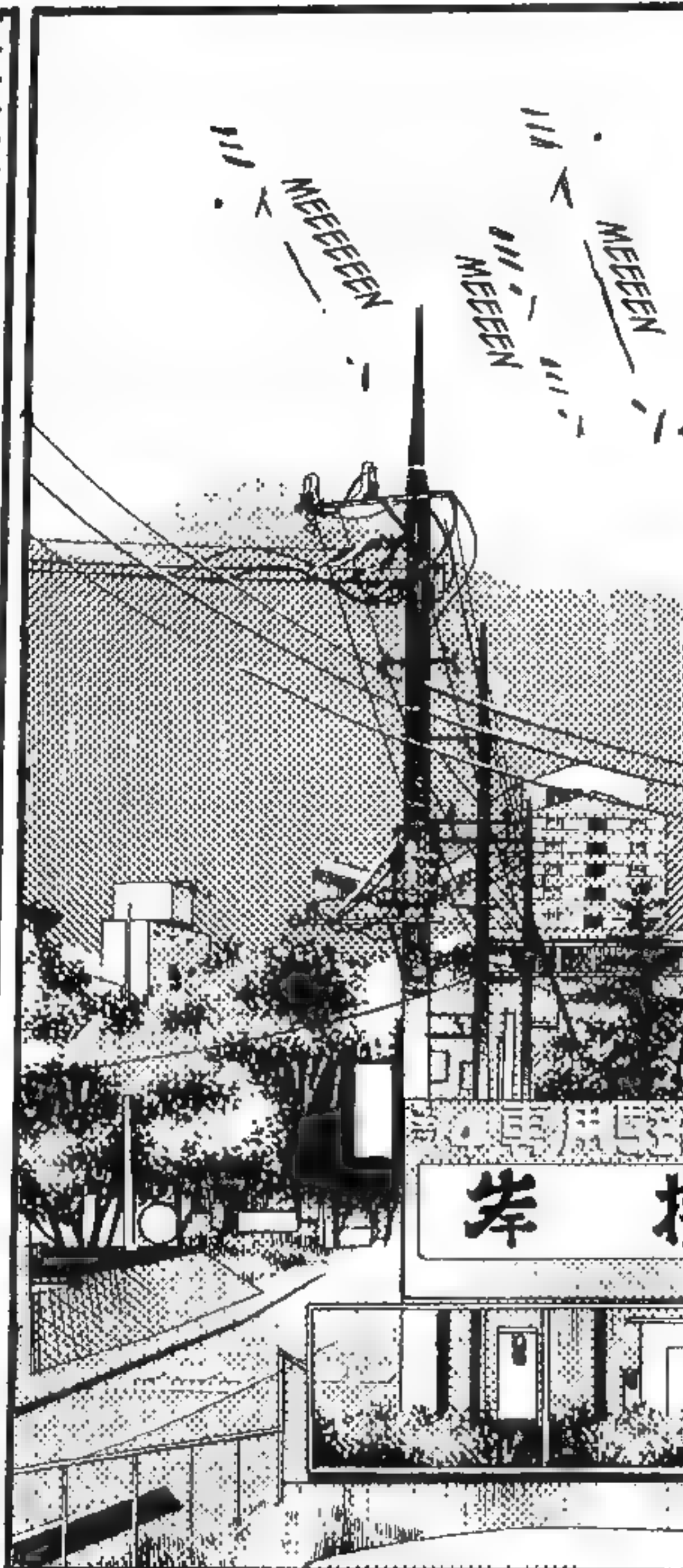
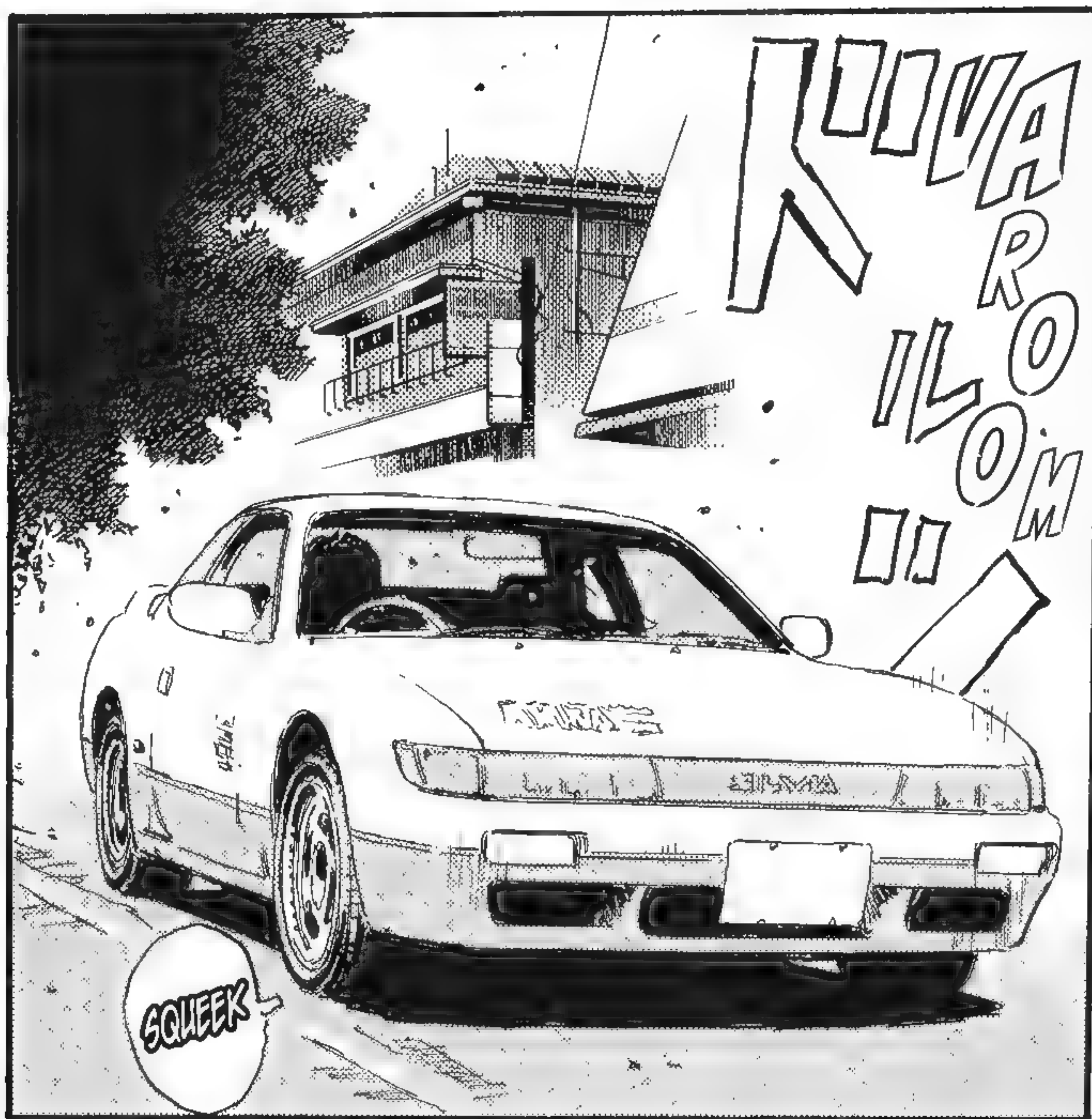
I'M  
HAPPY  
JUST TO  
RIDE!

NO  
PROBLEM.  
DOESN'T  
MATTER  
WHAT KIND  
OF CAR  
IT IS.







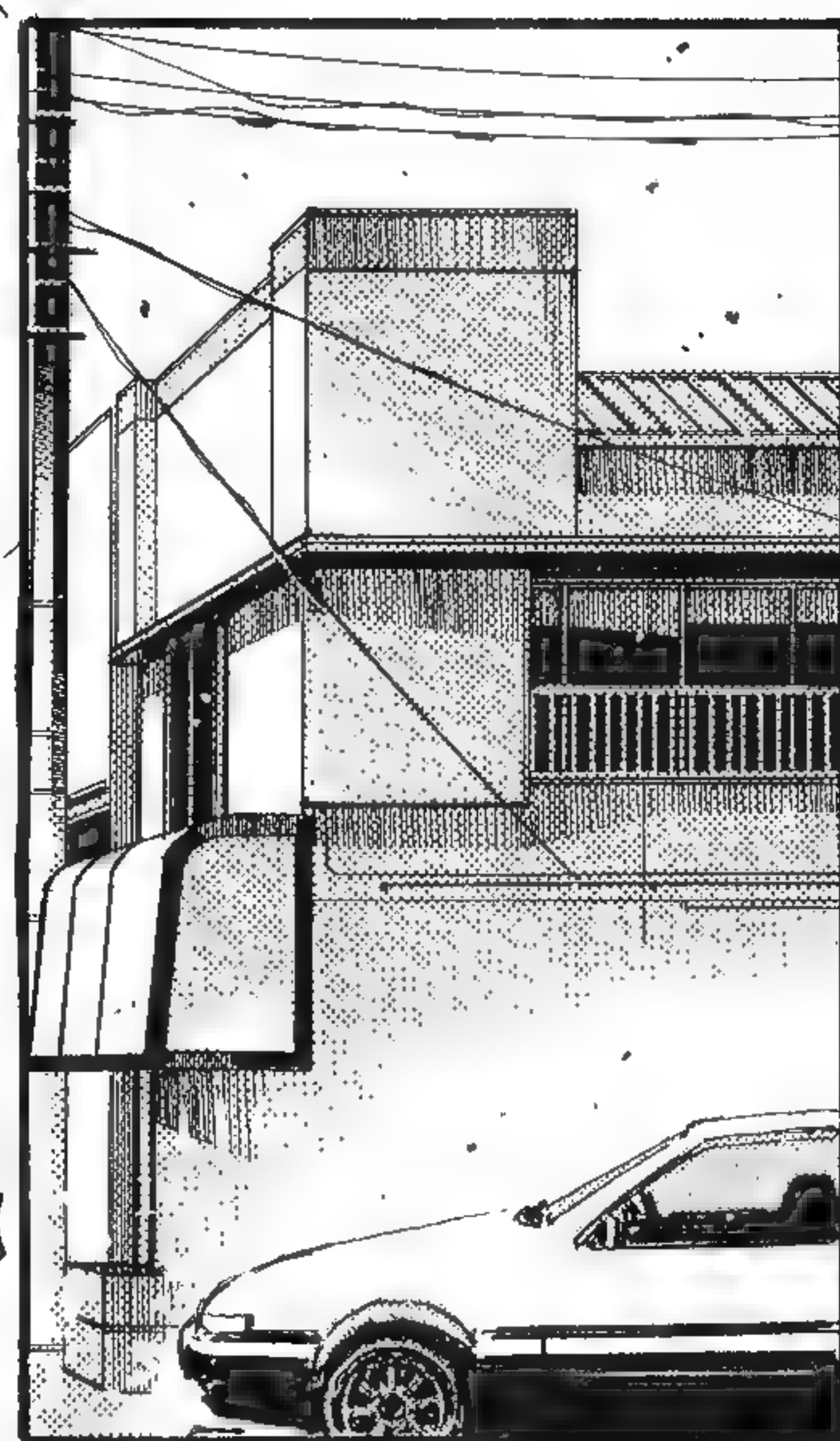






AN  
EIGHT-  
SIX.

YEP.  
THERE  
IT IS.







► *Ch. 4: Iketani's Grim Choice!*

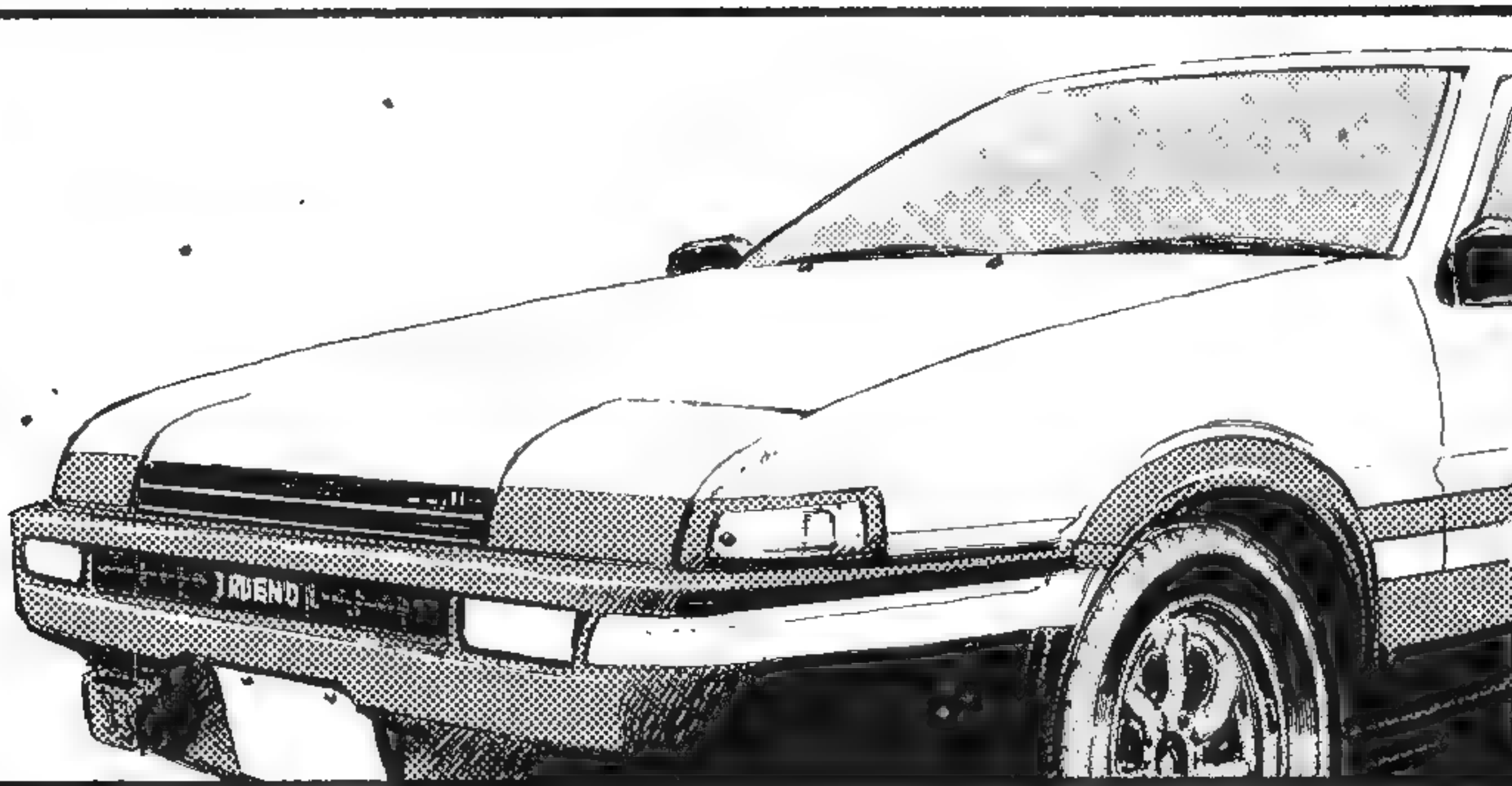


FIRST-  
GEN GT  
APEX.

FROM HERE,  
IT LOOKS  
EXACTLY LIKE  
ANY OTHER  
EIGHT-SIX.



NO WAY IT'S  
FASTER THAN  
THE LATEST  
MACHINERY.



IT'S BONE  
STOCK,  
OTHER  
THAN THE  
AUXILIARY  
LIGHTS.



BUT  
THAT'LL  
ONLY GET  
YOU SO  
FAR!



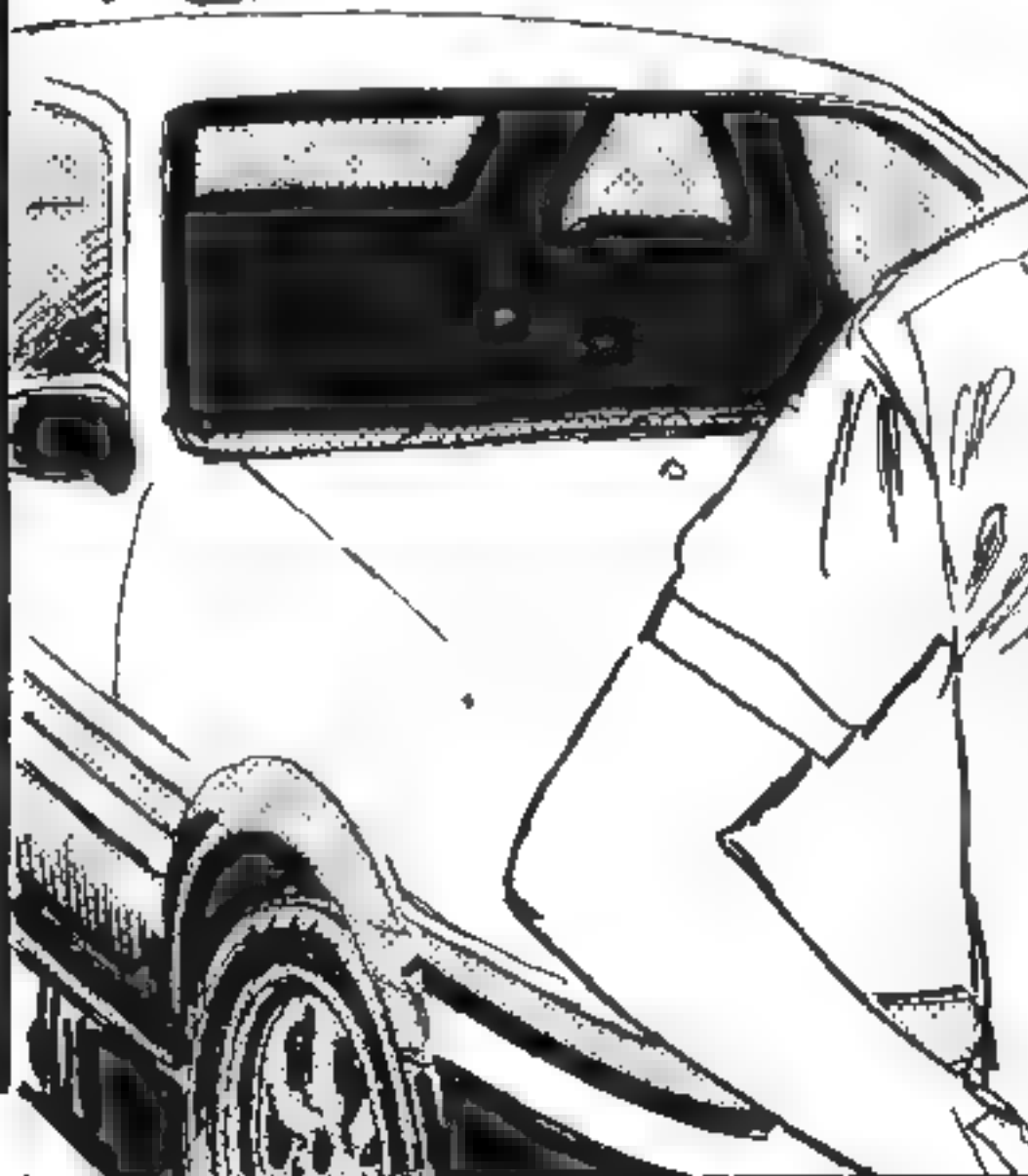
I GRANT,  
POWER'S  
LESS CRUCIAL  
DOWNHILL  
THAN UP.





OH!

GEE,  
SORRY.



I CAME  
ALL THE  
WAY OUT  
HERE FOR  
THIS?



TAKUMI?!



IKETANI-  
SENPAI?



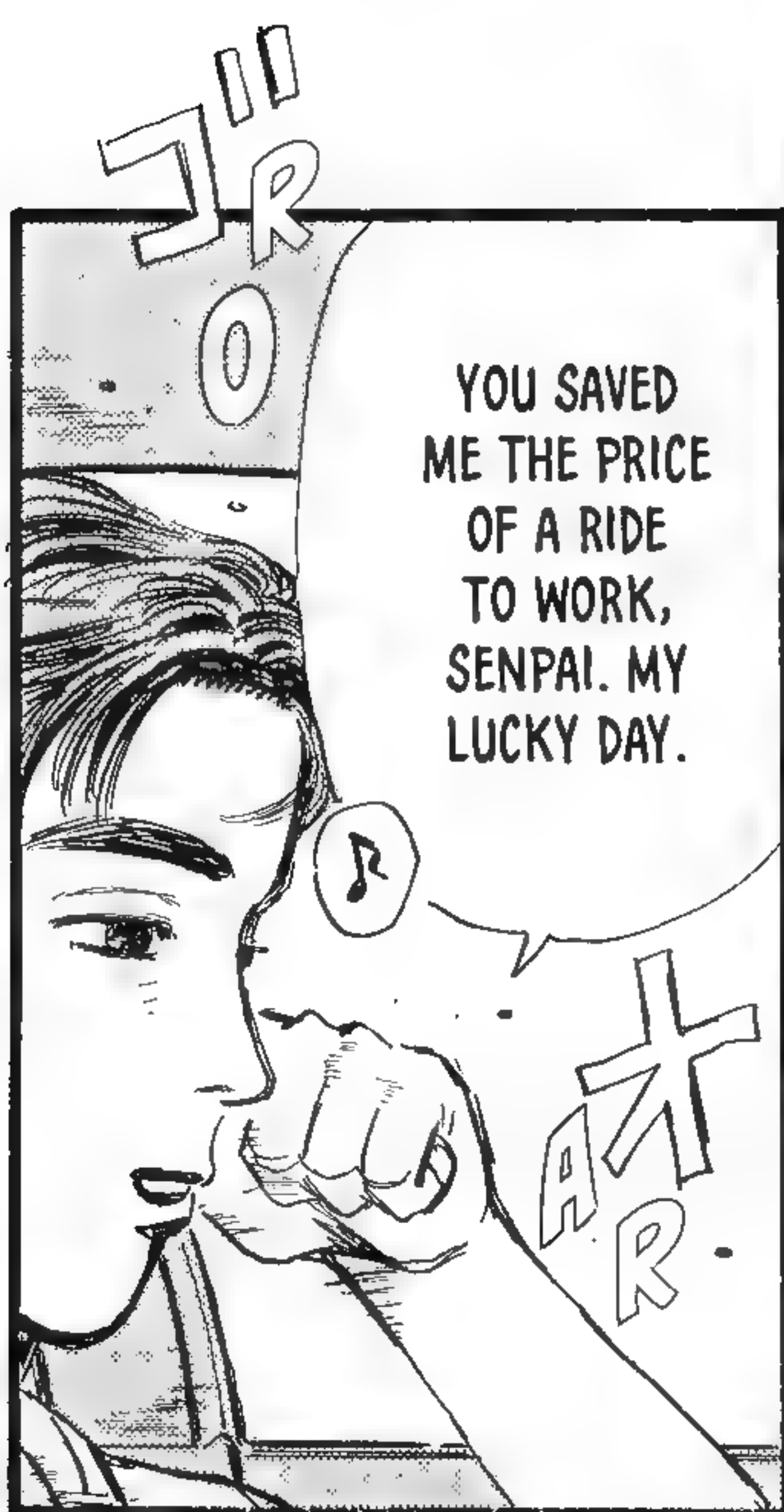
... YOU  
LIVE  
HERE?!

WAIT...



WHAT'RE  
YOU DOING  
IN OUR  
DRIVEWAY,  
SENPAI?





YOU SAVED  
ME THE PRICE  
OF A RIDE  
TO WORK,  
SENPAI. MY  
LUCKY DAY.



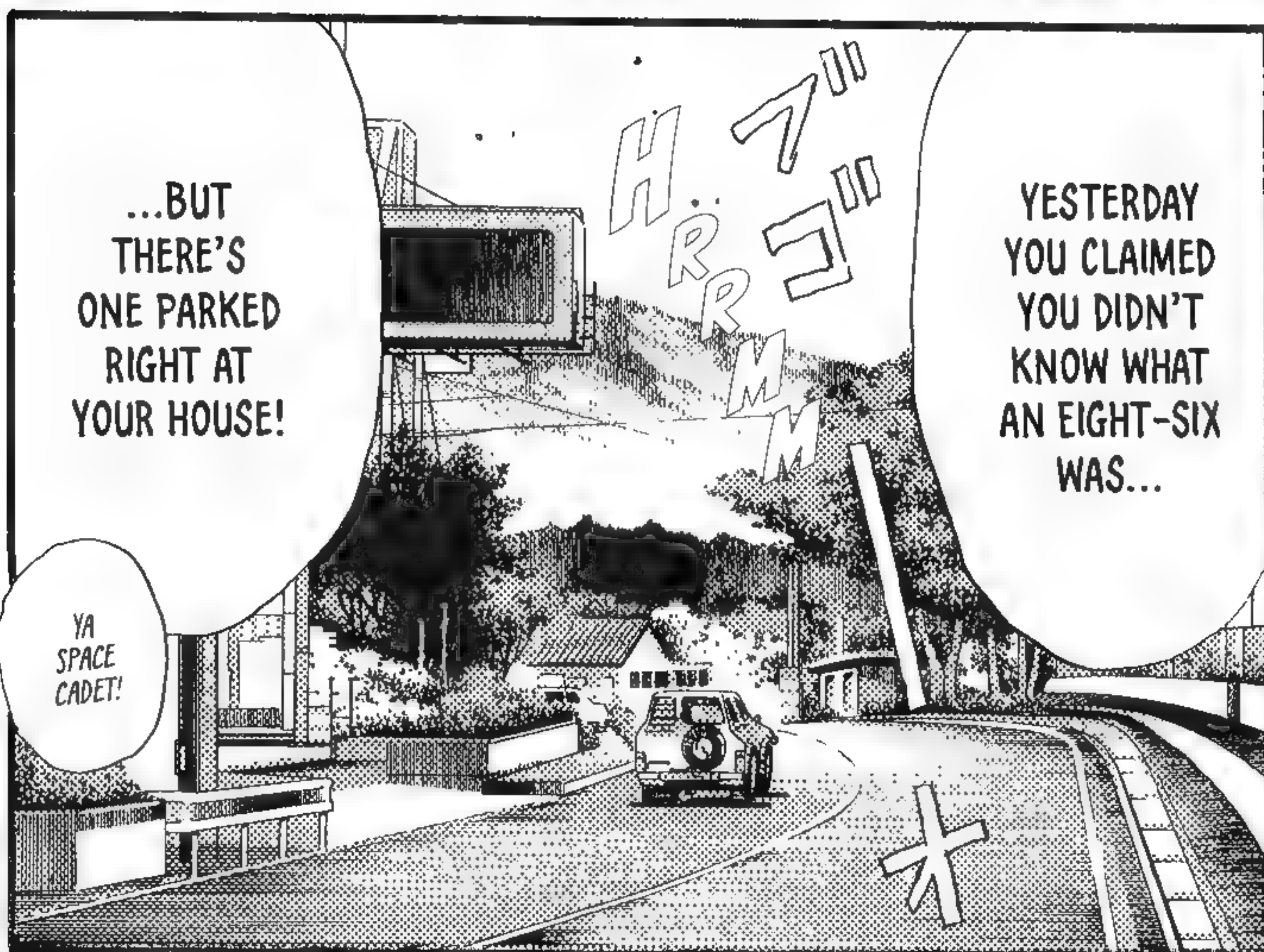
...Y'KNOW,  
IN THE NEIGHBOR-  
HOOD.  
HAPPENED  
TO BE  
PASSING  
BY.

UHH...  
I GUESS  
I WAS  
JUST...



WHAT  
WERE YOU  
DOING  
THERE?

BUT  
I STILL  
DON'T  
UNDER-  
STAND.



...BUT  
THERE'S  
ONE PARKED  
RIGHT AT  
YOUR HOUSE!

YA  
SPACE  
CADET!

YESTERDAY  
YOU CLAIMED  
YOU DIDN'T  
KNOW WHAT  
AN EIGHT-SIX  
WAS...

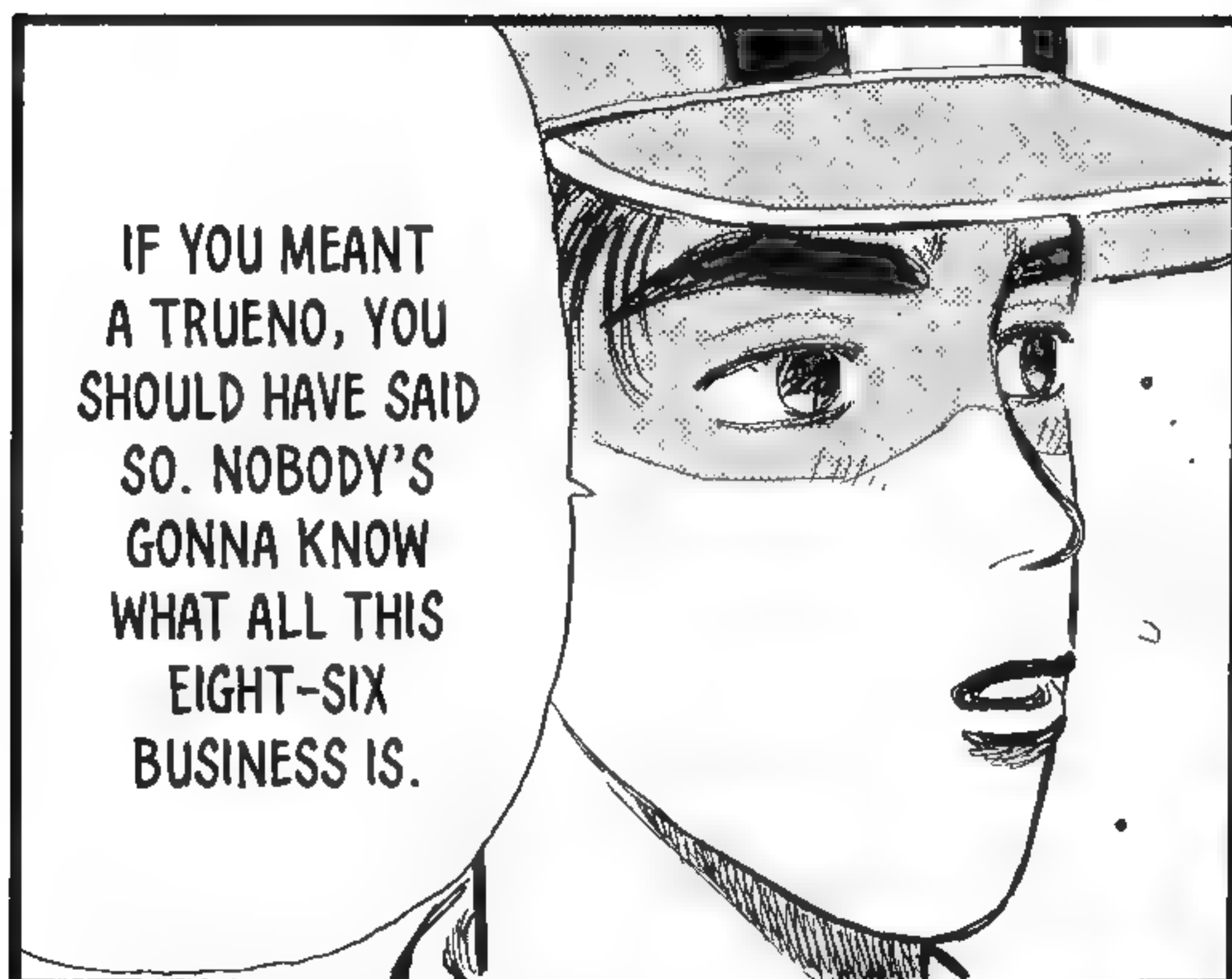


I GOTTA SAY,  
THOUGH, YOU  
REALLY *DON'T*  
KNOW JACK  
ABOUT CARS.













YEAH,  
I CAN.  
'CAUSE  
I DON'T  
REALLY.



YOU CAN'T  
TELL ME YOU  
DON'T WANT  
TO SEE THESE  
TAKAHASHI  
BROTHERS AT  
WORK! THE  
FASTEST GUYS  
ON AKAGI?

AFTER  
WHAT I SAW  
YESTERDAY, I'M  
OFFICIALLY  
OBSESSED  
WITH THE  
WORLD OF  
STREET  
RACING!



GIVE ME  
A RIDE  
IN YOUR  
EIGHT-  
SIX ON  
SATURDAY  
NIGHT!

IT'S  
THE  
ONLY  
THING  
I WANT  
IN  
LIFE!

LOOK,  
I'M  
BEGGING  
YOU!

I'M  
PRACTICALLY  
ON MY  
KNEES! AND  
YOU CALL  
YOURSELF MY  
FRIEND?!

STOP,  
DAM-  
MIT!  
YOU'RE  
STRAN-  
GLING  
ME!

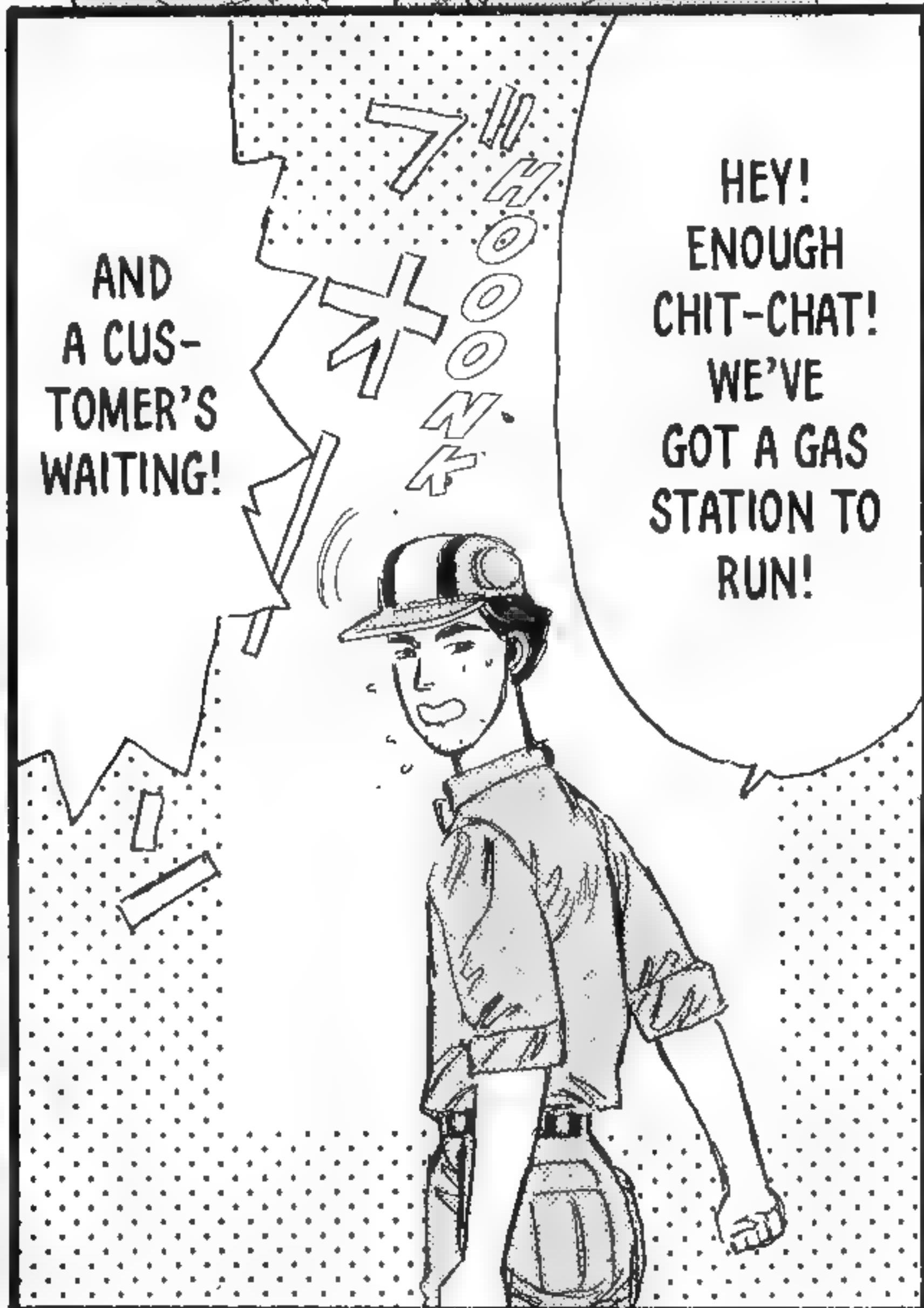
CHOK  
HOKE

OH! SO  
THAT'S HOW  
IT'S GONNA  
BE, HUH?!



SORRY,  
SENPAI!

YES,  
SENPAI!



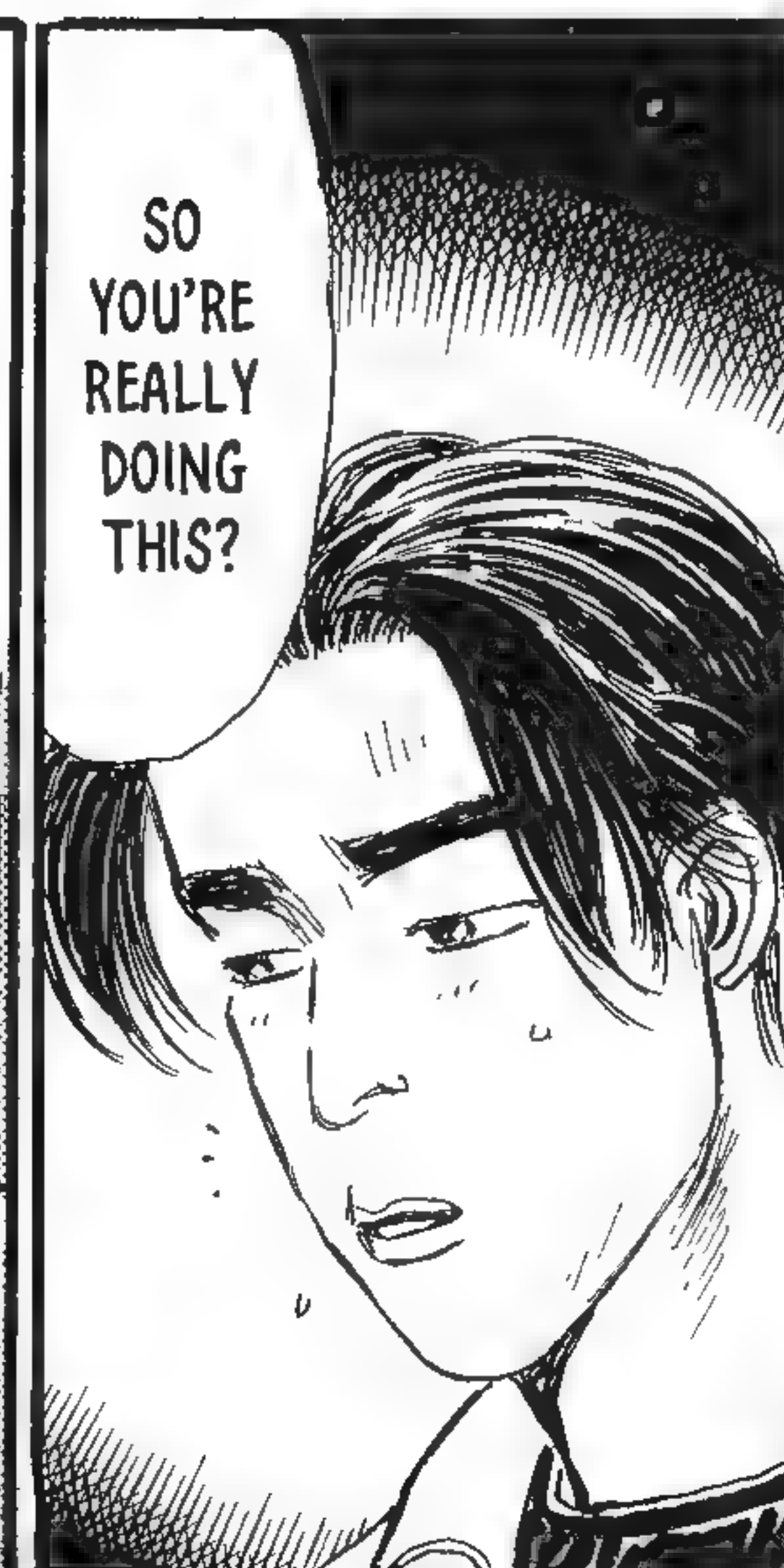
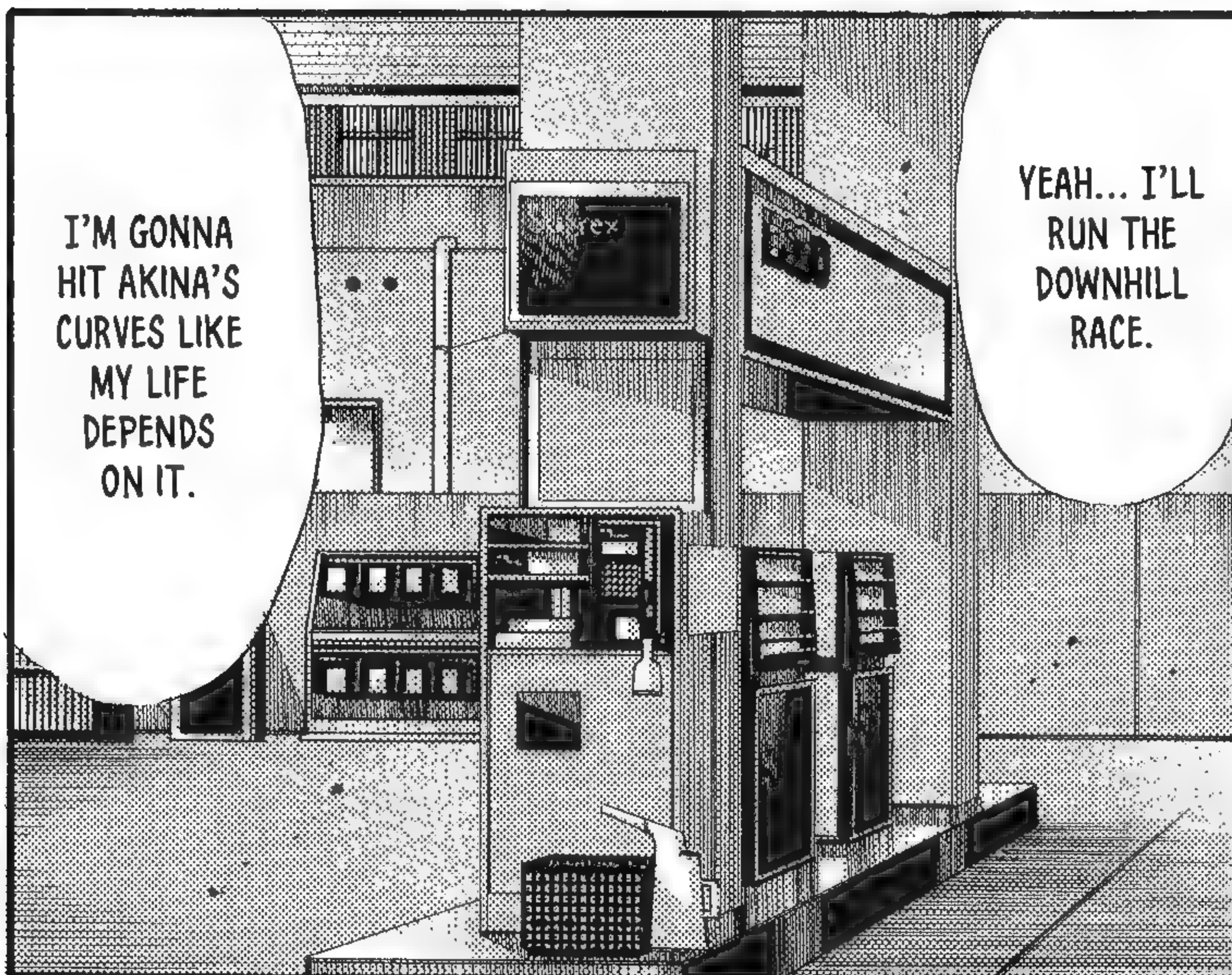
AND  
A CUS-  
TOMER'S  
WAITING!

HEY!  
ENOUGH  
CHIT-CHAT!  
WE'VE  
GOT A GAS  
STATION TO  
RUN!





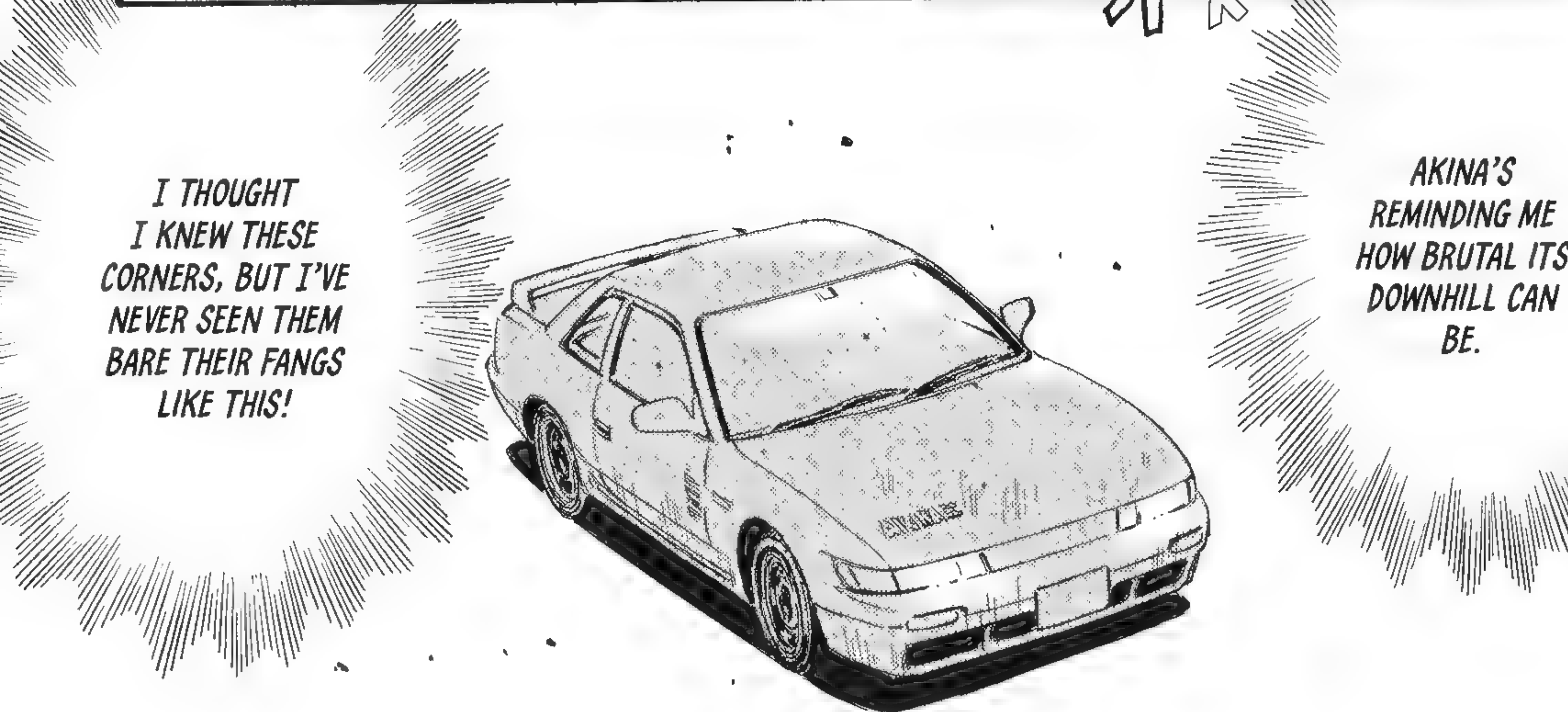




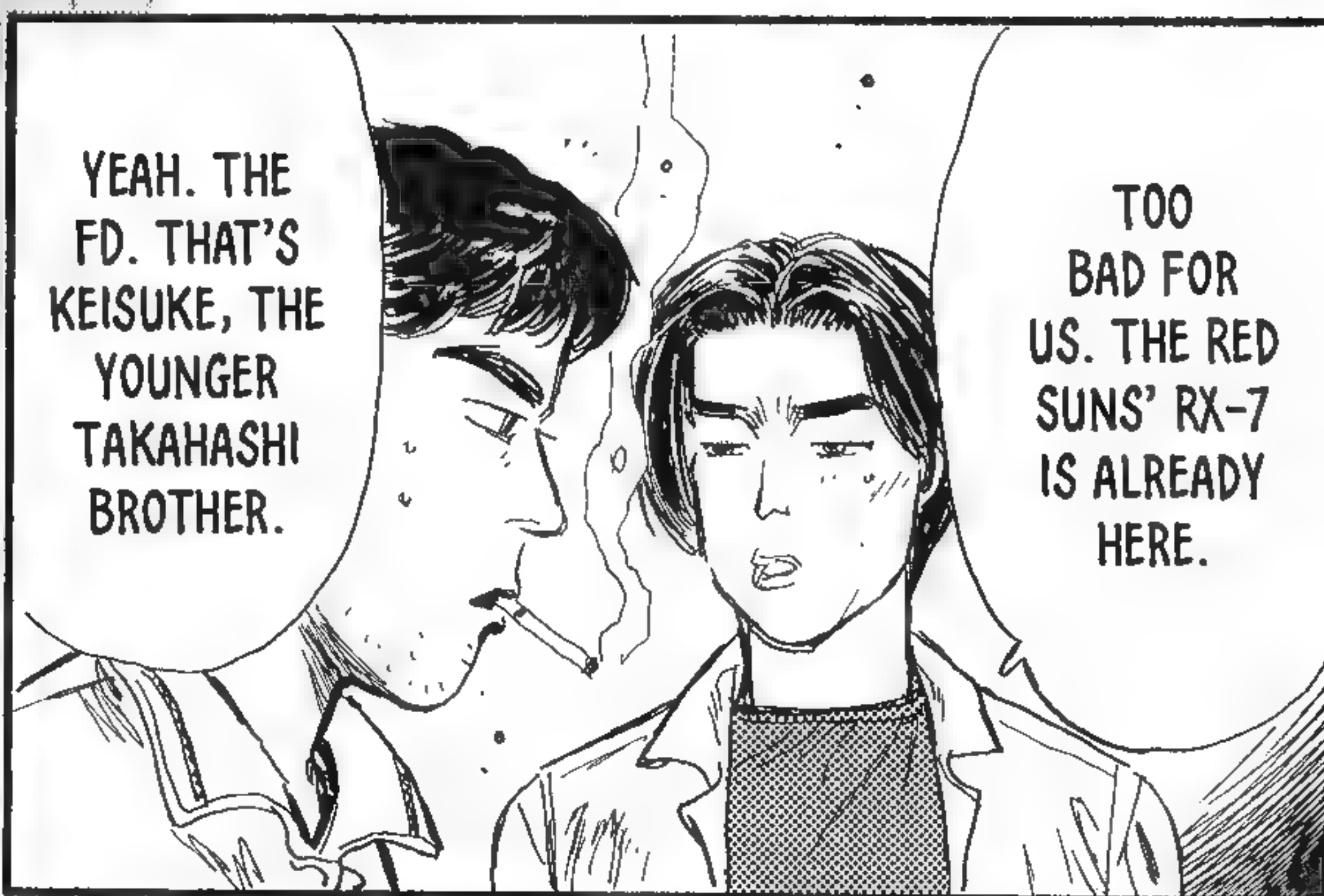
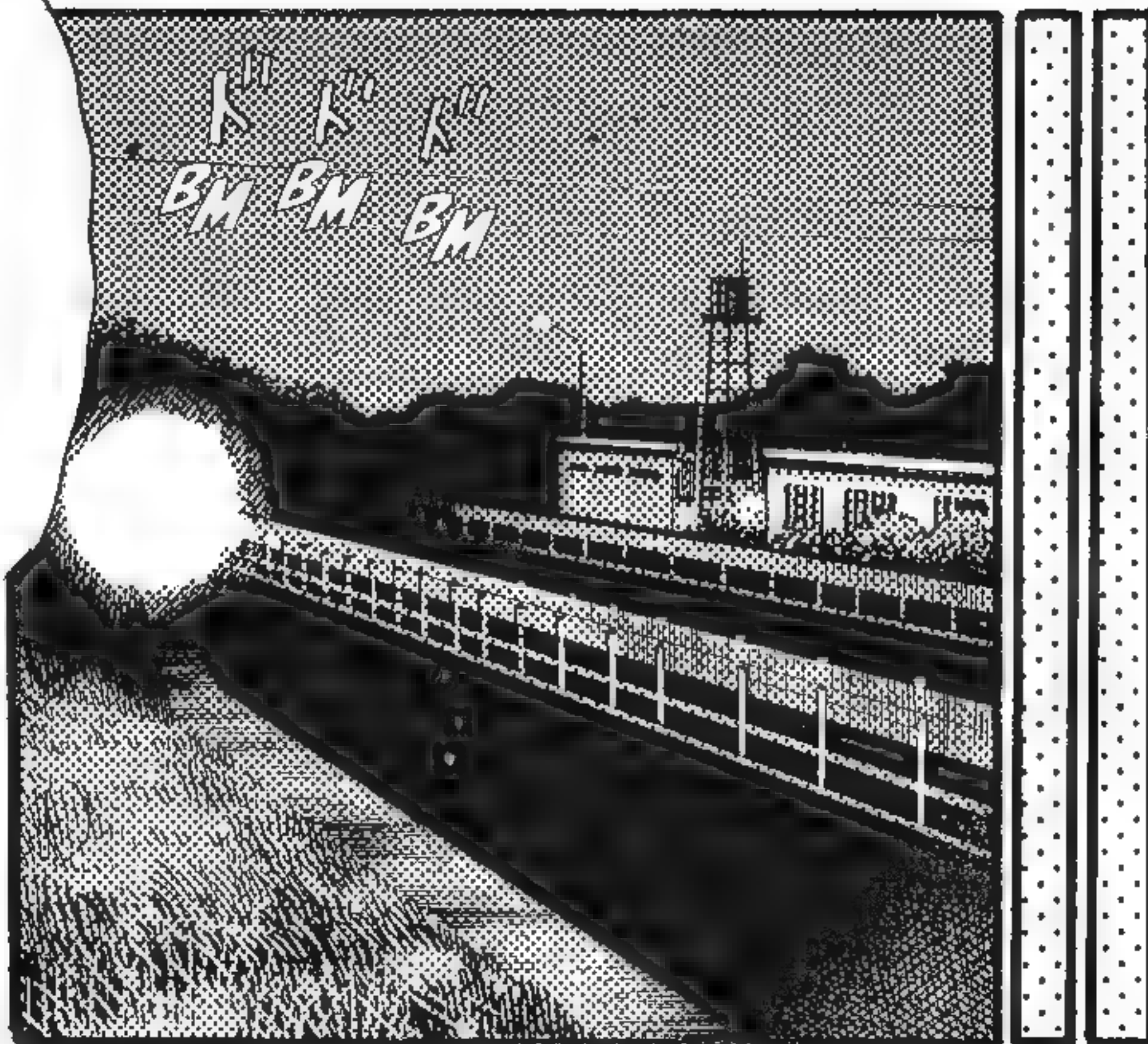




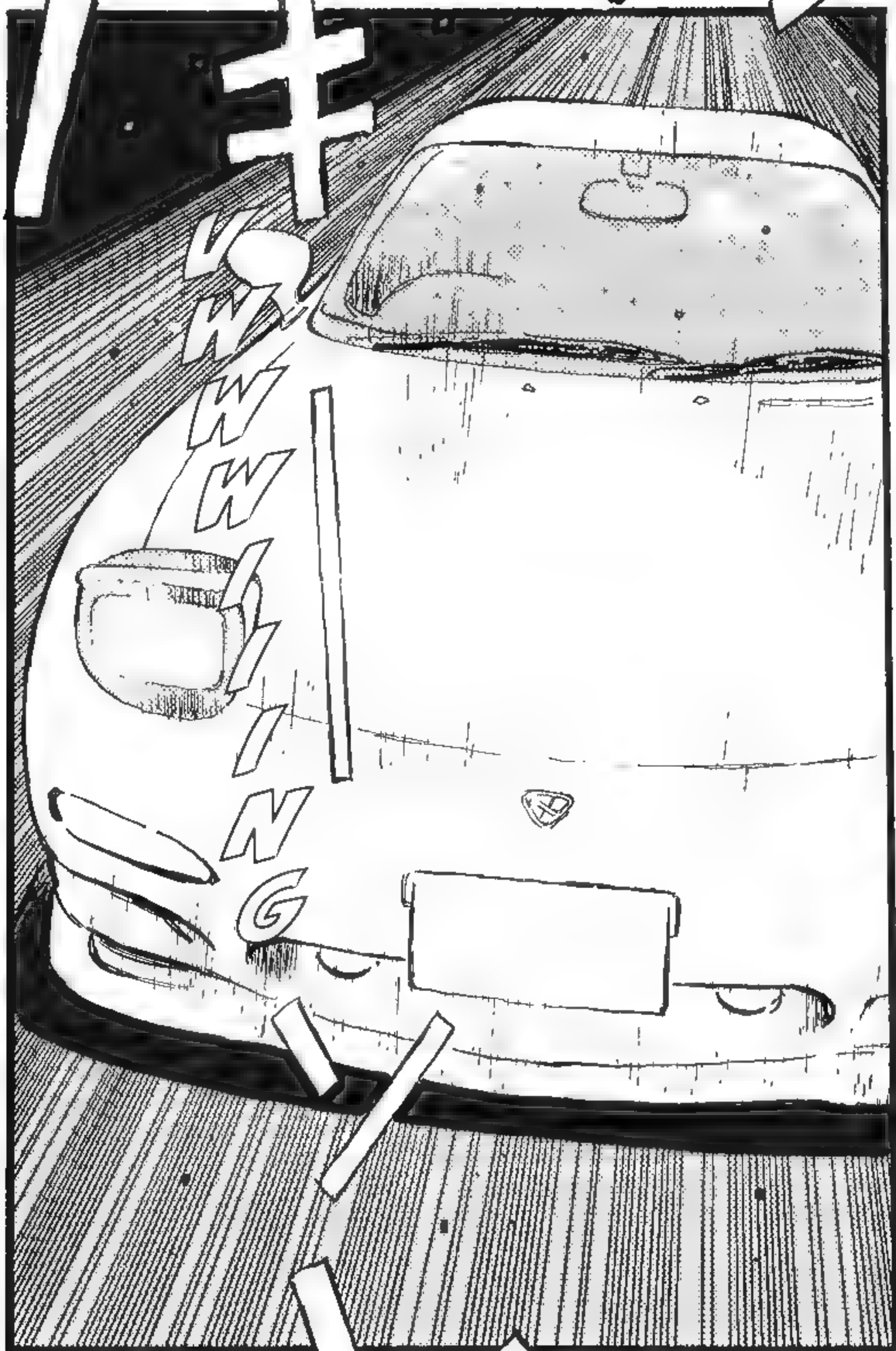






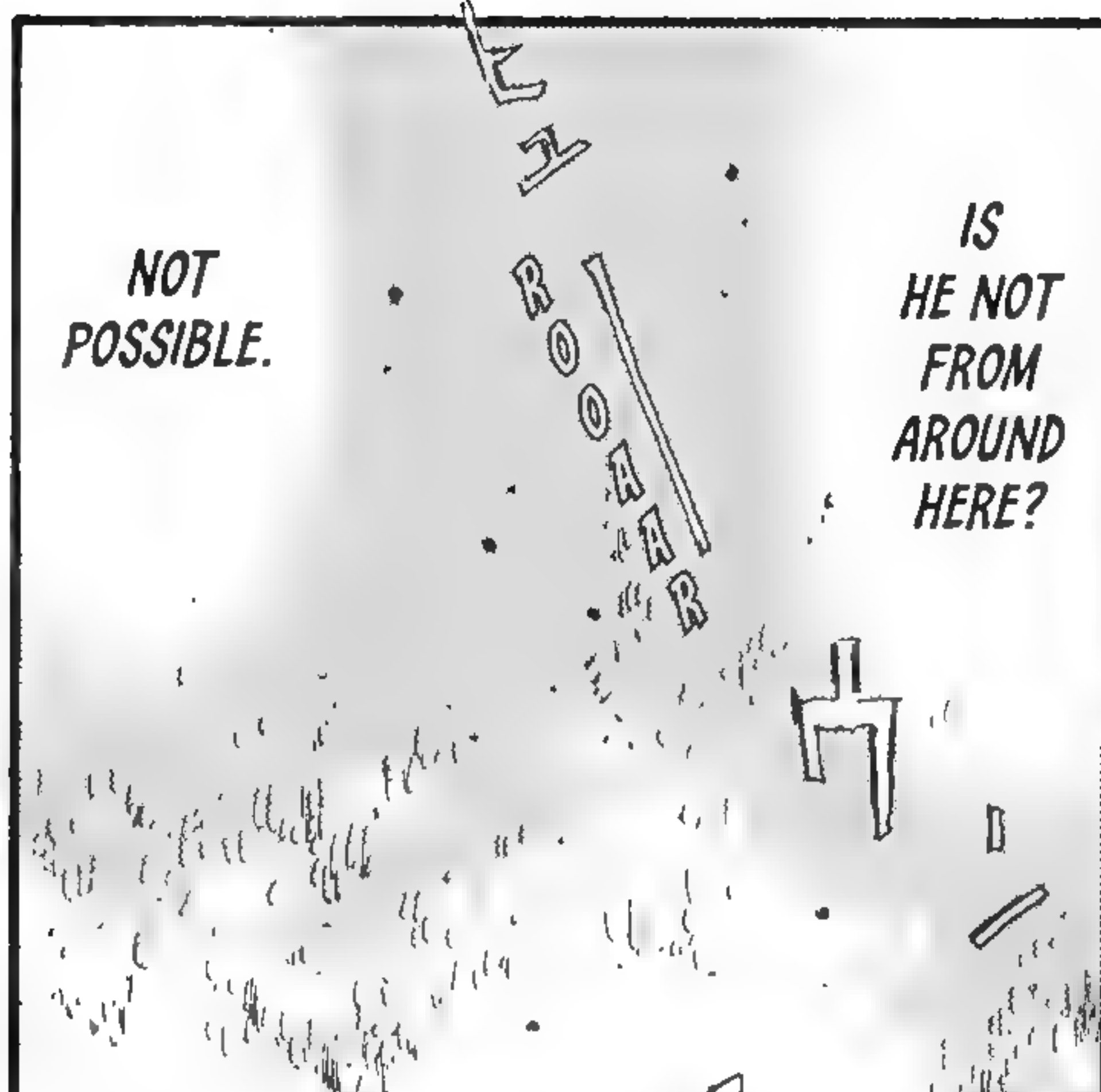






Who are these losers?





NOT  
POSSIBLE.

IS  
HE NOT  
FROM  
AROUND  
HERE?



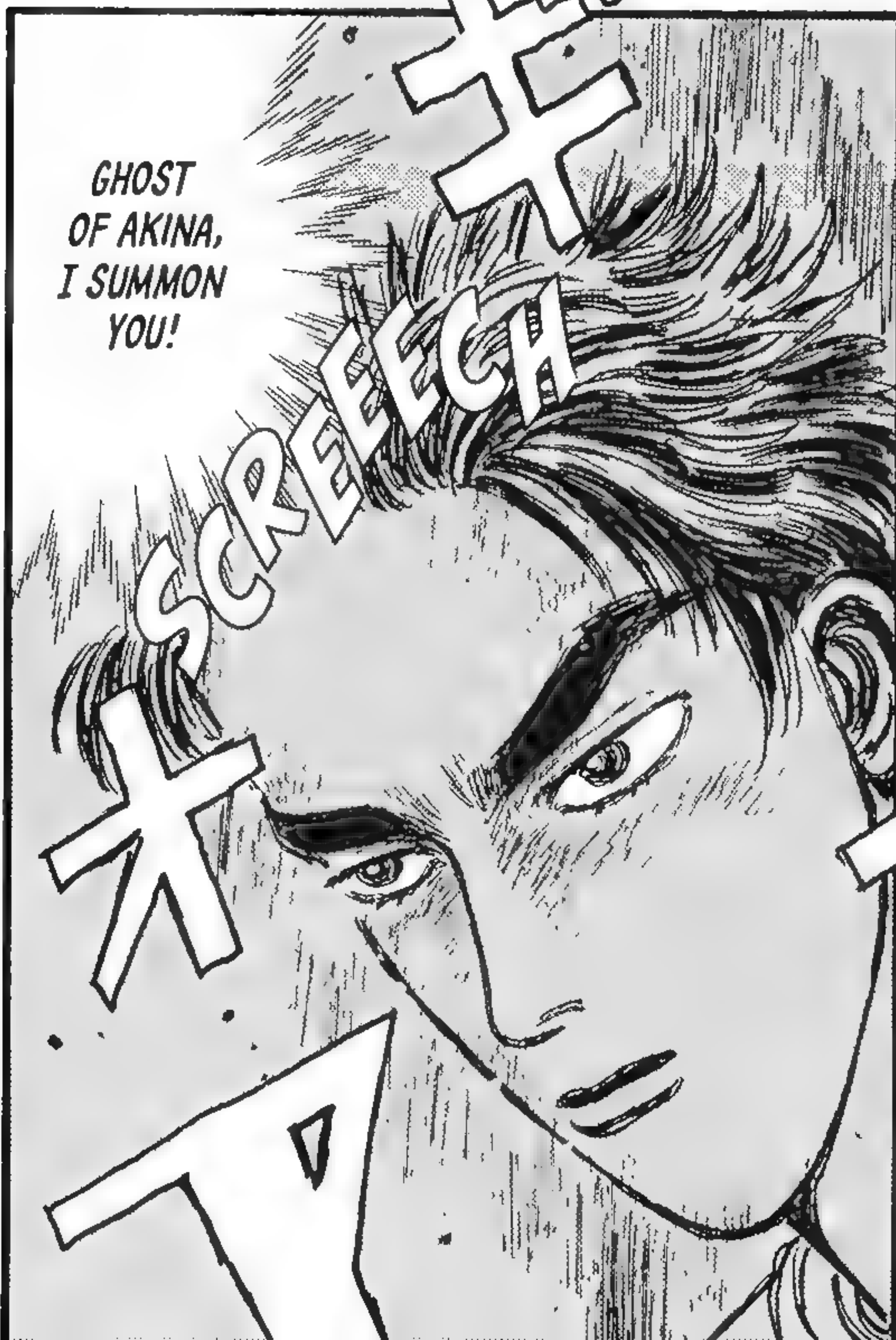
WHERE'S  
THAT  
EIGHT-  
SIX?!

I  
STILL  
DON'T  
SEE  
HIM.

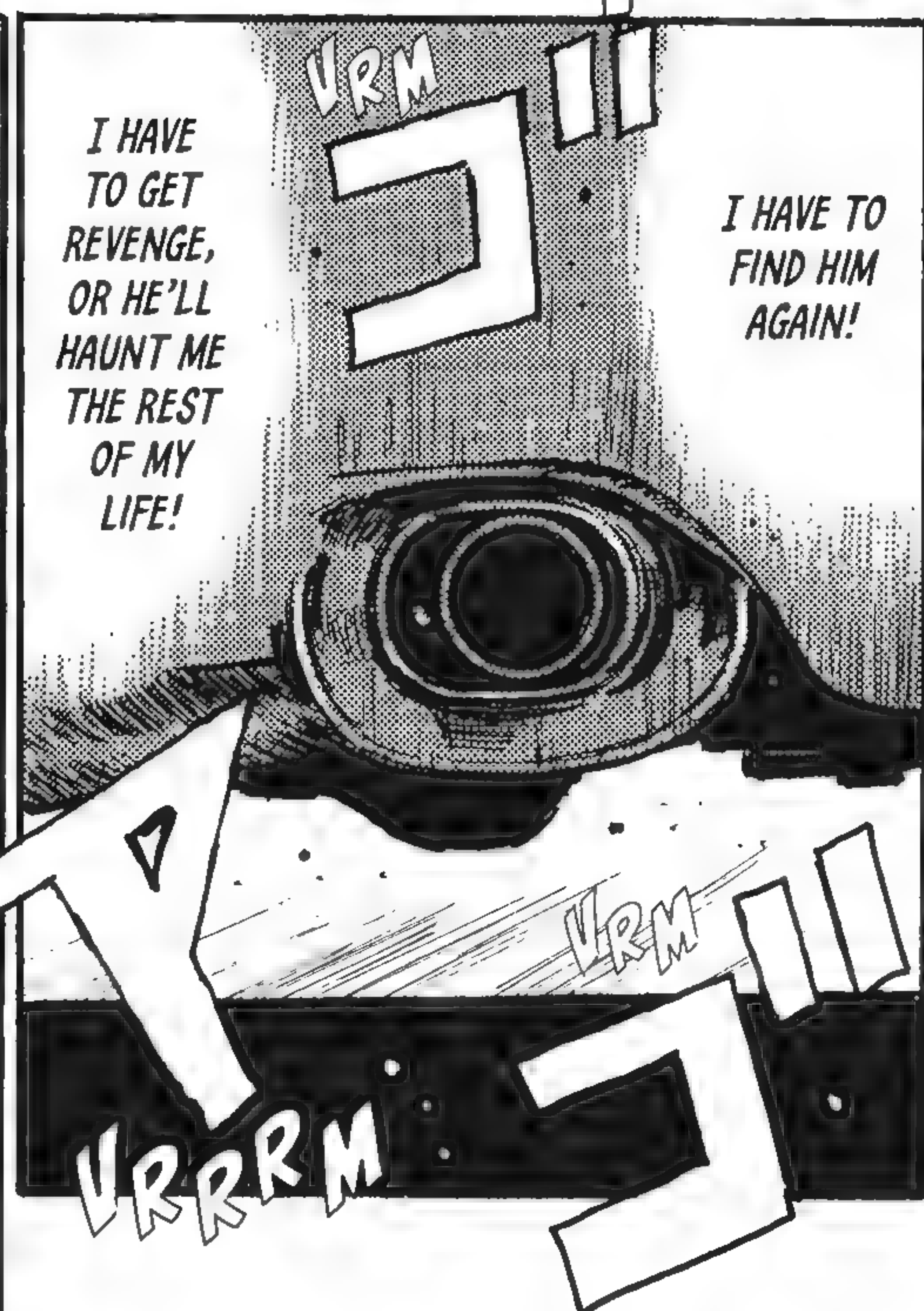


I CAN  
FEEL IT.  
ONE RACER  
KNOWS  
ANOTHER.

HE  
KNEW THIS  
MOUNTAIN  
LIKE THE  
BACK OF HIS  
HAND.



GHOST  
OF AKINA,  
I SUMMON  
YOU!



I HAVE  
TO GET  
REVENGE,  
OR HE'LL  
HAUNT ME  
THE REST  
OF MY  
LIFE!

I HAVE TO  
FIND HIM  
AGAIN!

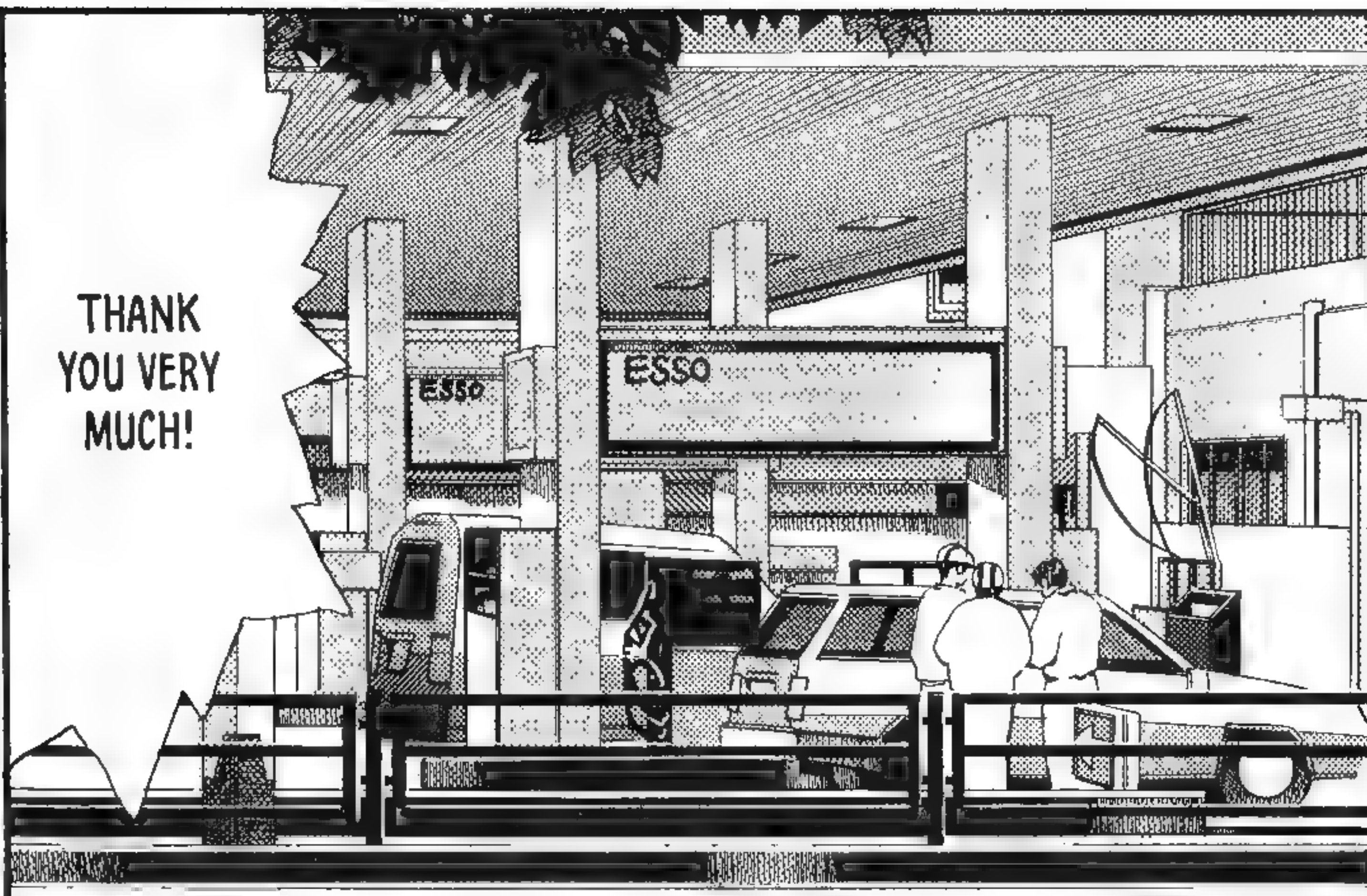








THANK  
YOU VERY  
MUCH!



HOW CAN YOU BE A  
DECENT GAS STATION  
ATTENDANT WITHOUT  
KNOWING ABOUT CARS?!  
YOU AND I SHOULD GIVE  
HIM A FEW LESSONS.  
YOU KNOW, SHARE OUR  
KNOWLEDGE!



SENPAL,  
I'VE BEEN  
THINKING.  
TAKUMI'S  
IGNORANCE  
ABOUT  
CARS IS  
PATHETIC!

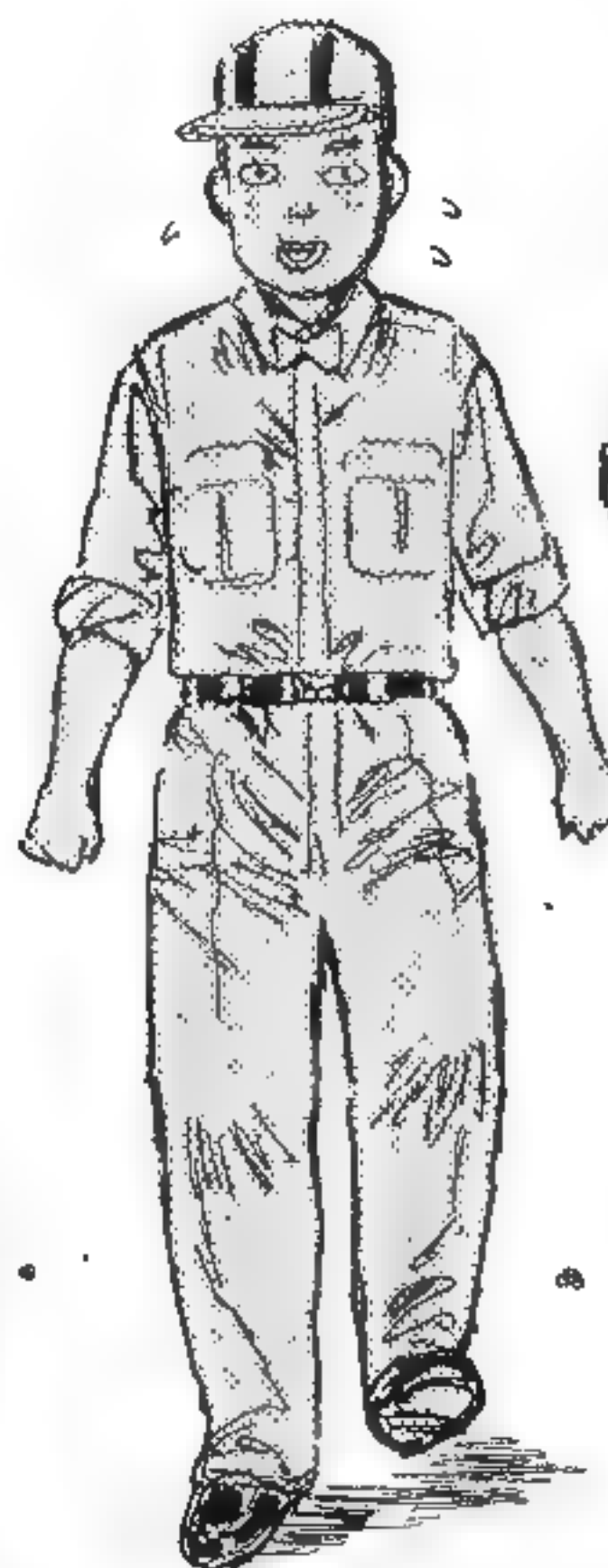
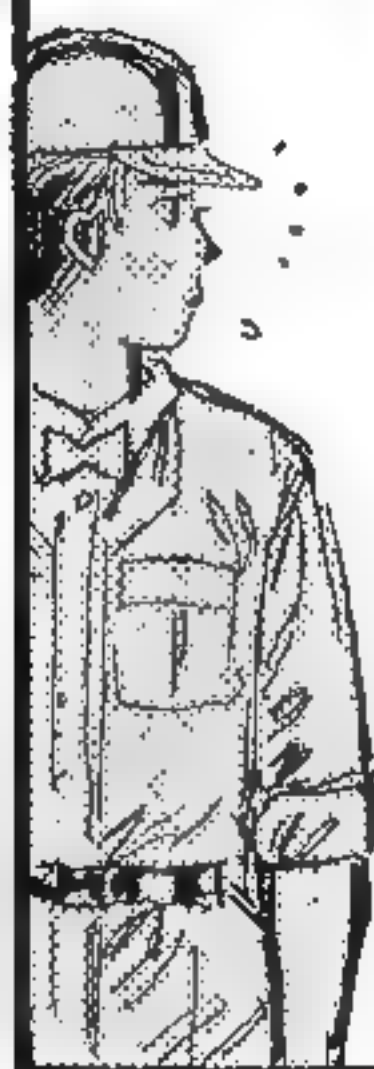


EVERY  
RACER IN  
JAPAN IS  
CRAZY ABOUT  
IT THESE  
DAYS!

DO YOU  
KNOW ABOUT  
DRIFTING?

TAKUMI!  
HEY,  
TAKUMI!

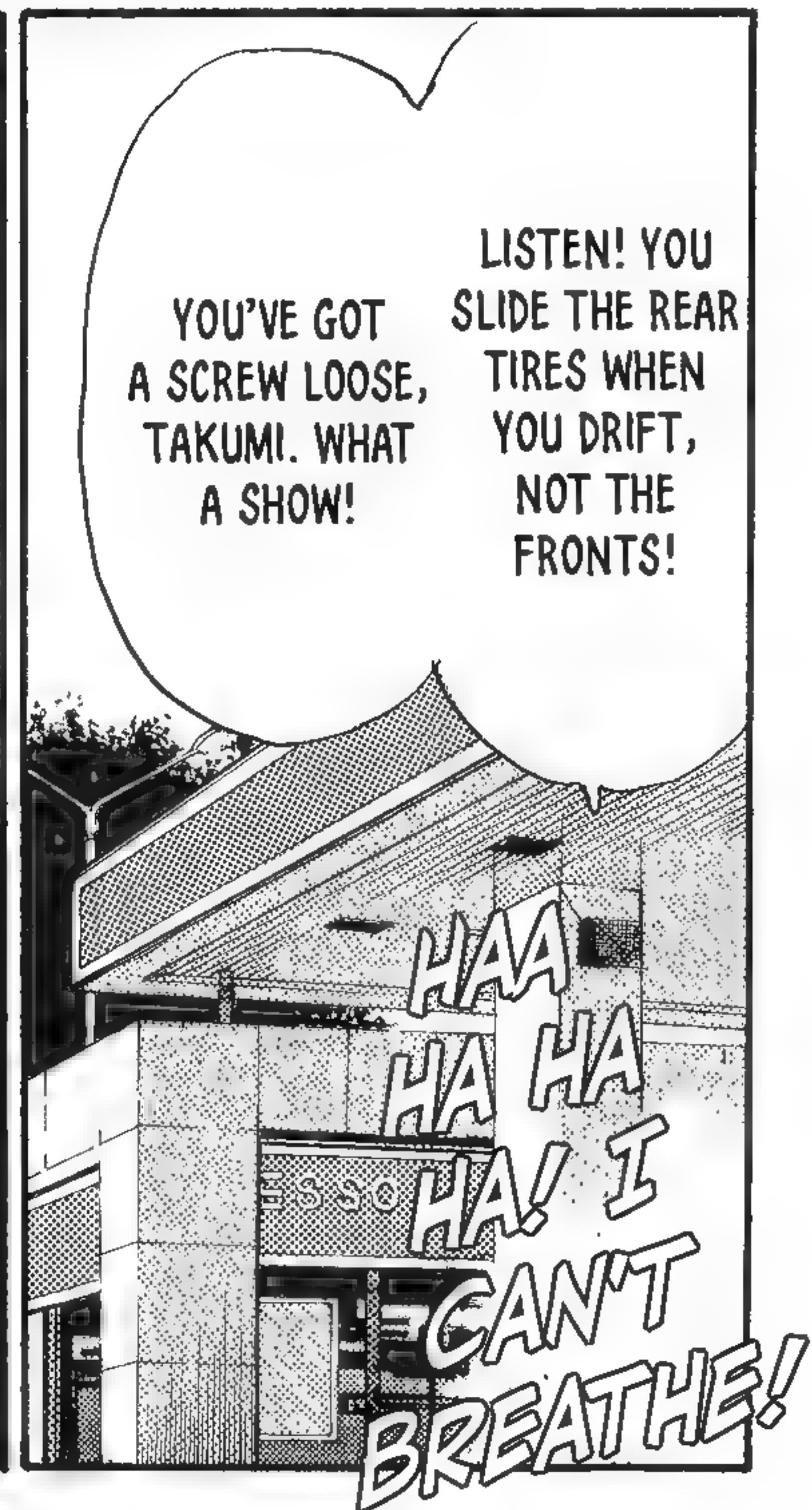
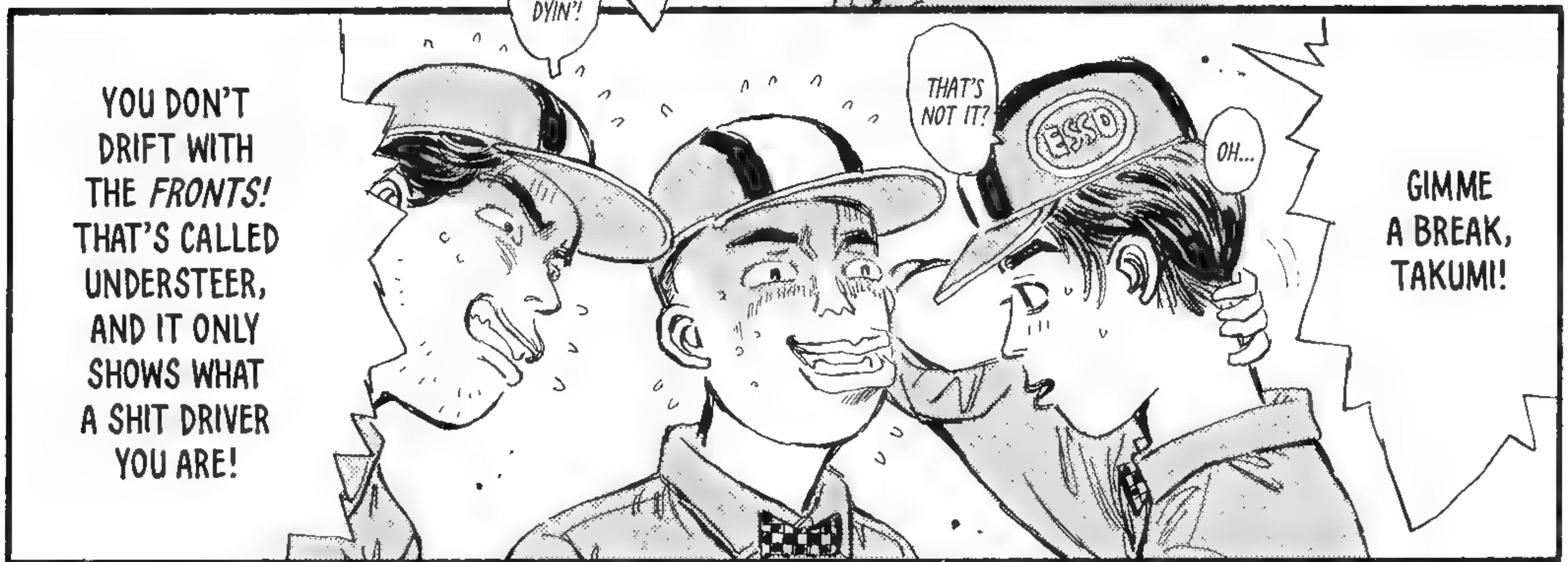
RIGHT. LIKE  
YOU'VE GOT  
ALL THIS  
KNOWLEDGE.







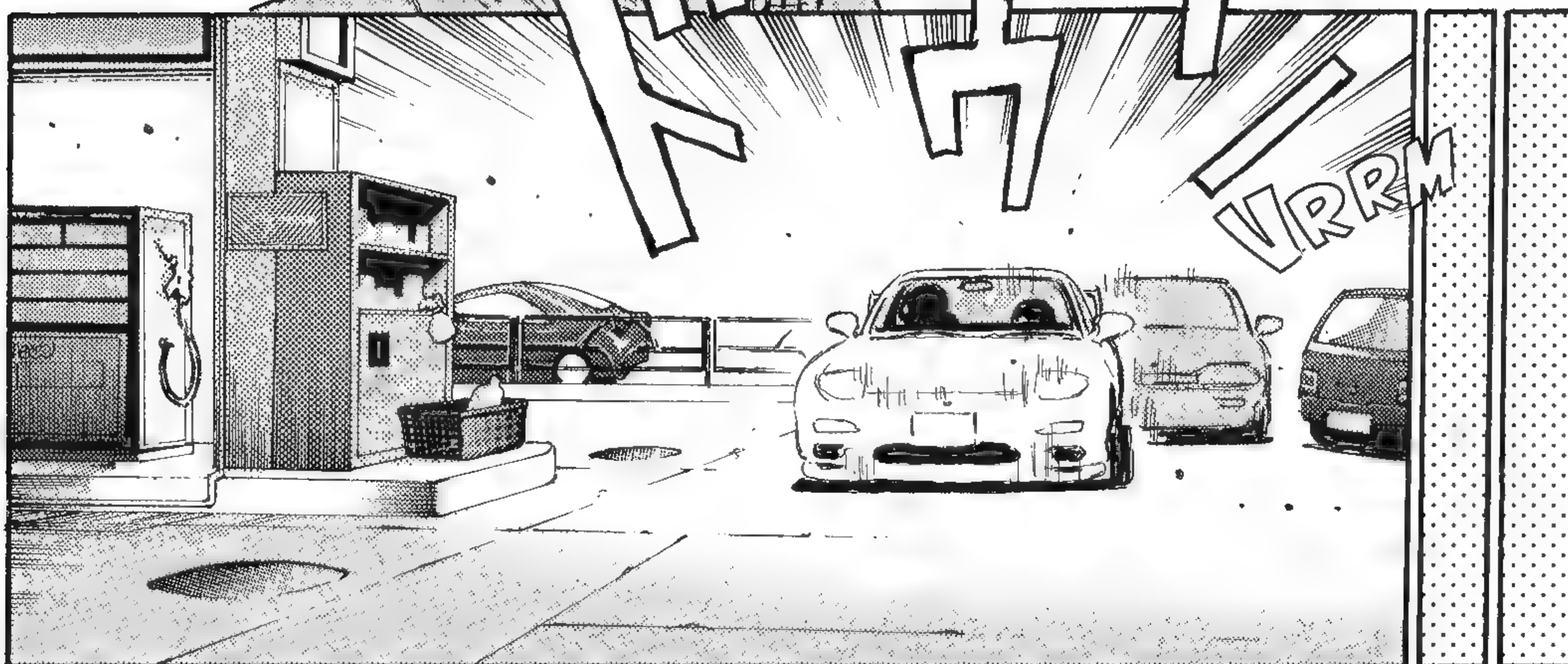




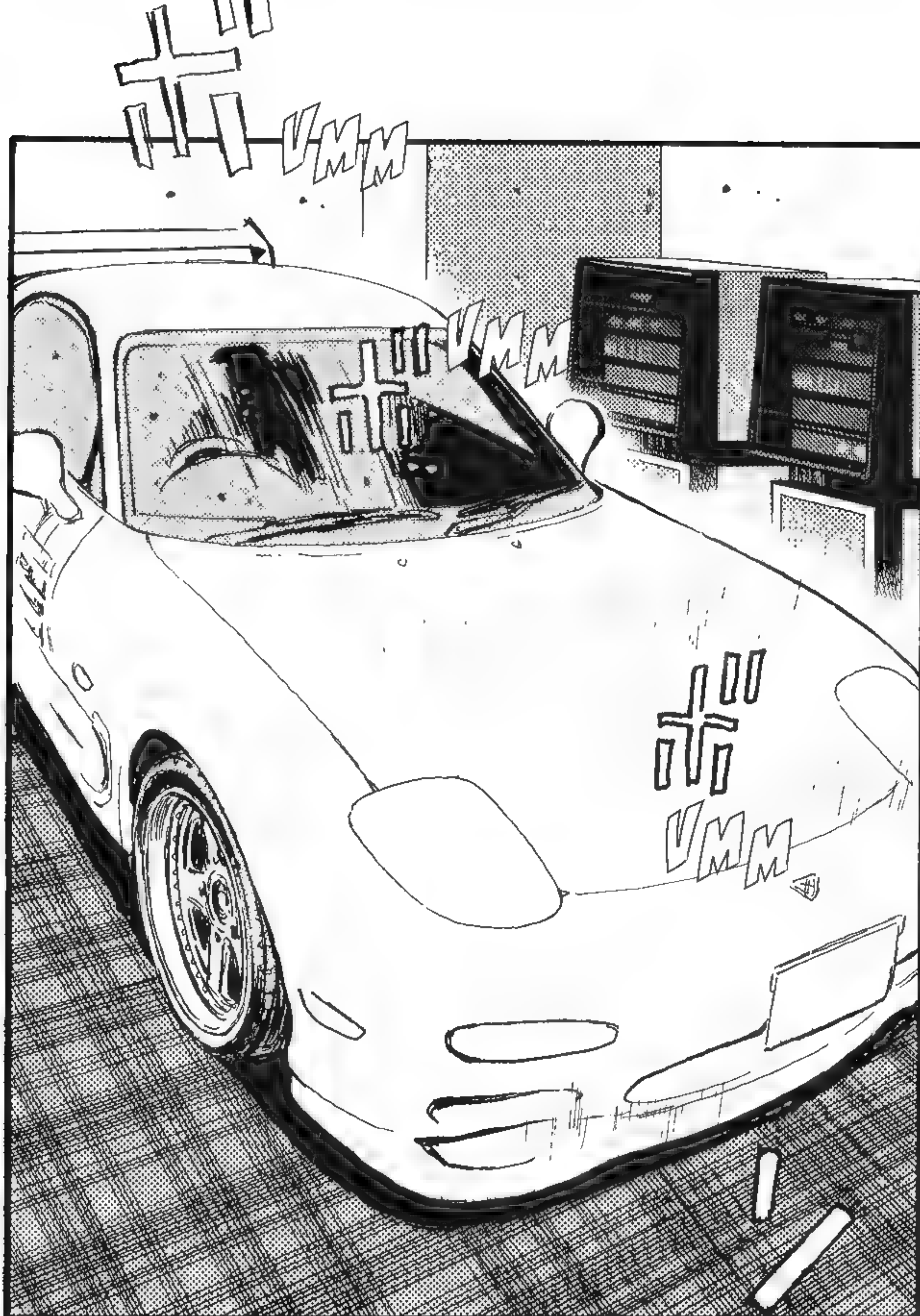


HELL  
OF A  
REPLY...

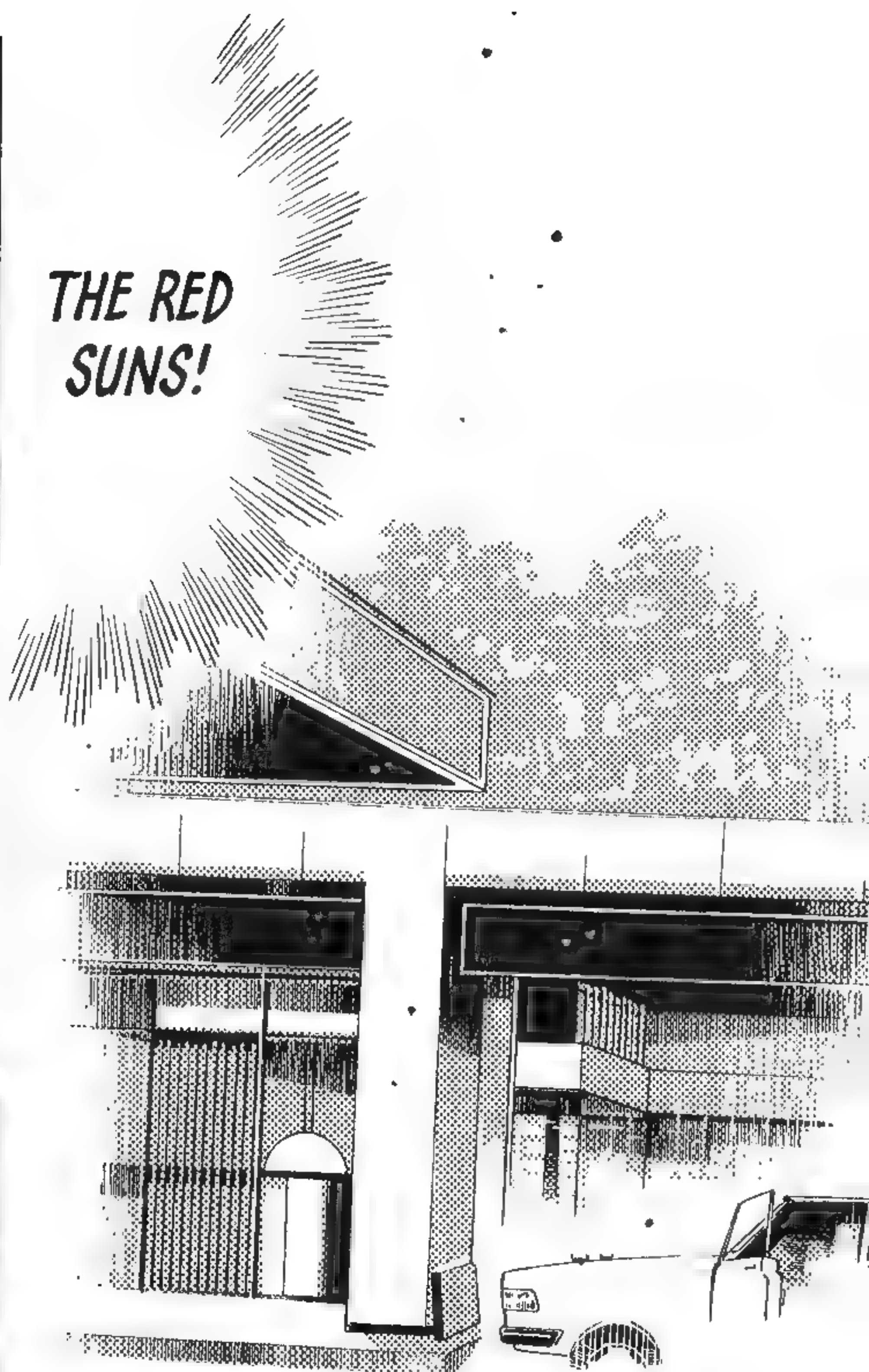
TO  
GIVE TAKUMI'S  
ANSWER, YOU  
WOULD HAVE TO  
HAVE MASTERED  
THE FOUR-  
WHEEL DRIFT.  
HIS RESPONSE IS  
LEAGUES BEYOND  
YOU TWO!







THE RED  
SUNS!



FILL  
HER UP.

HIGH-  
OCTANE.





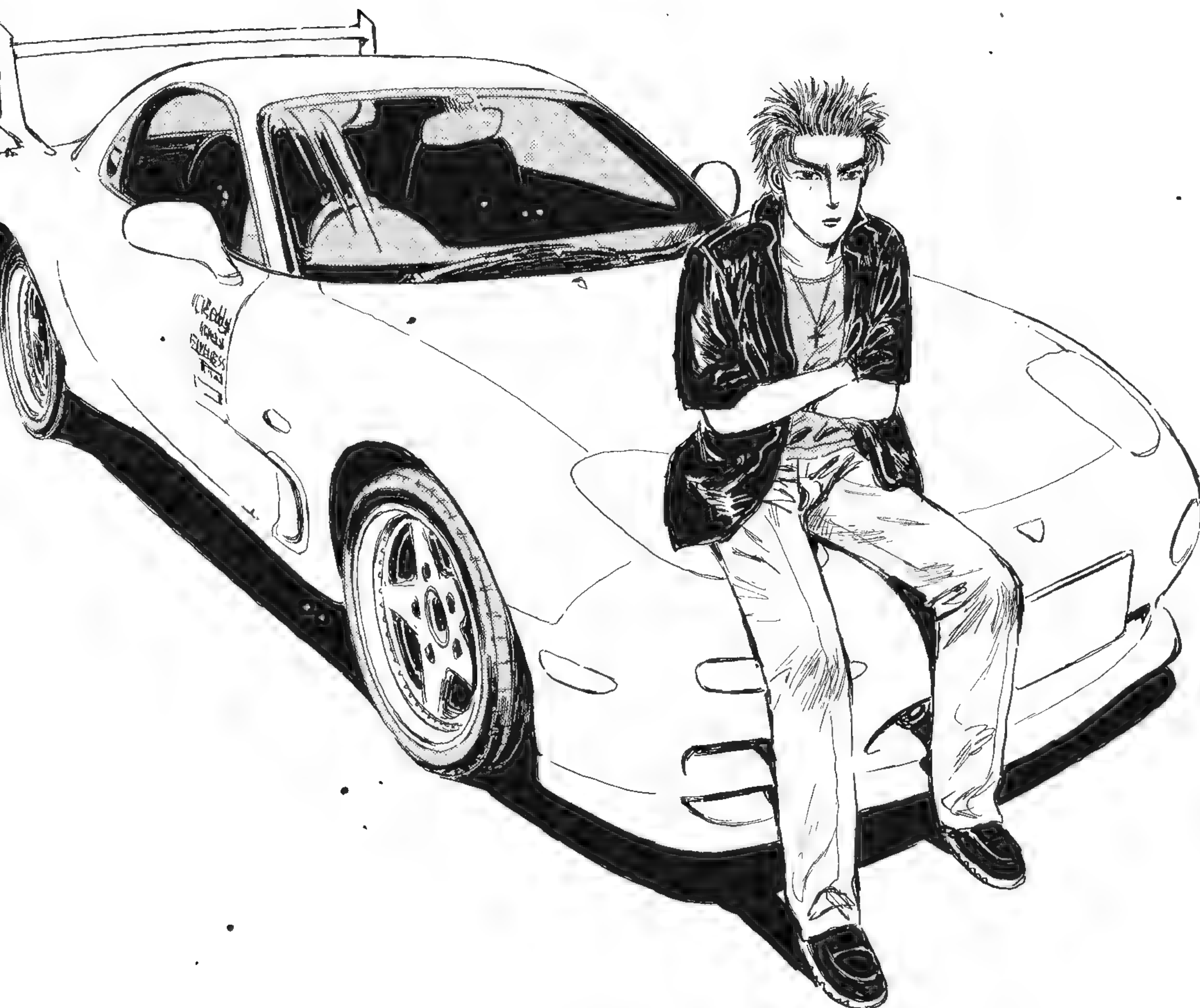
**Keisuke Takahashi (21 y/o)**

182 cm, 63 kg

Likes: His FD

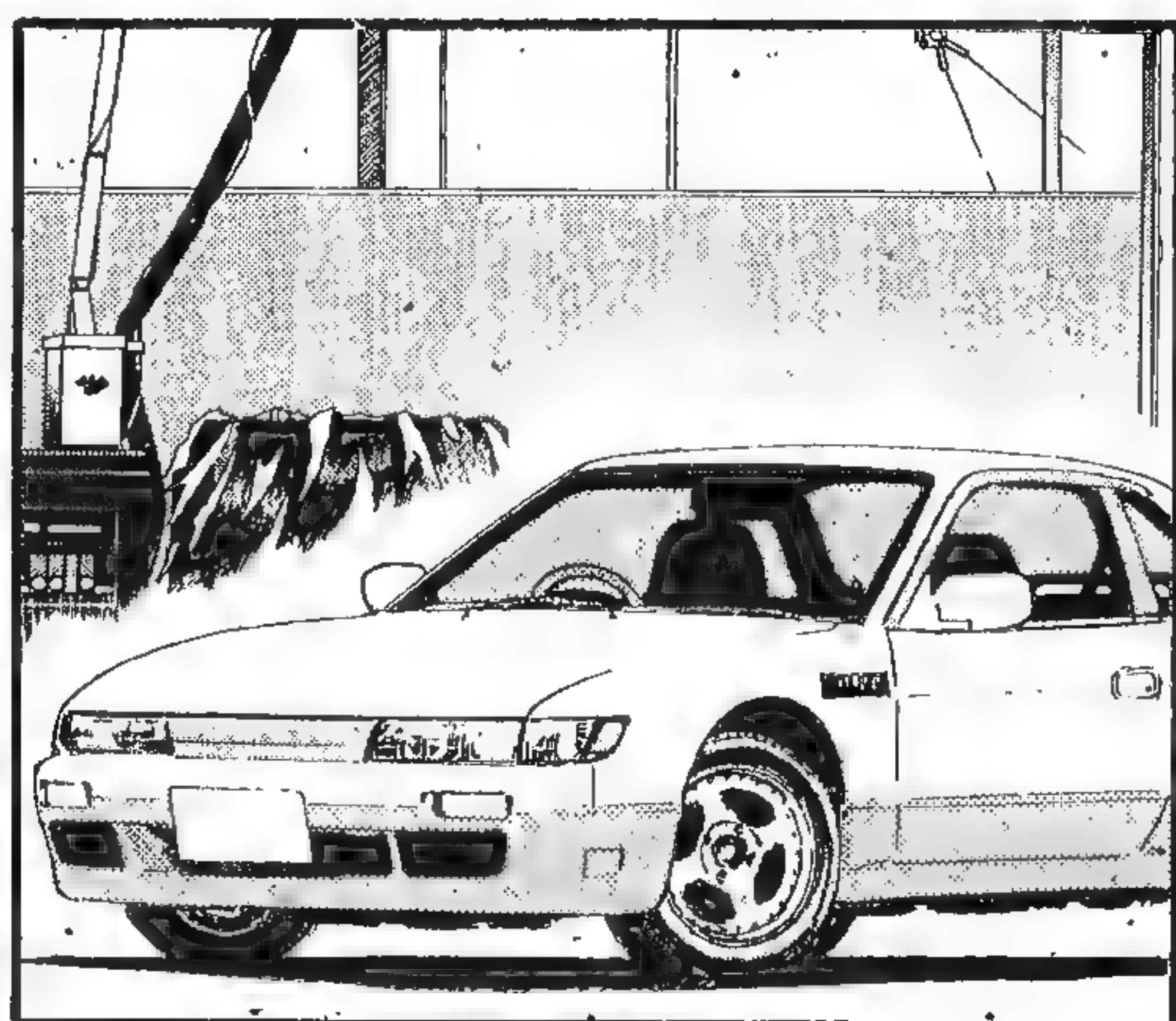
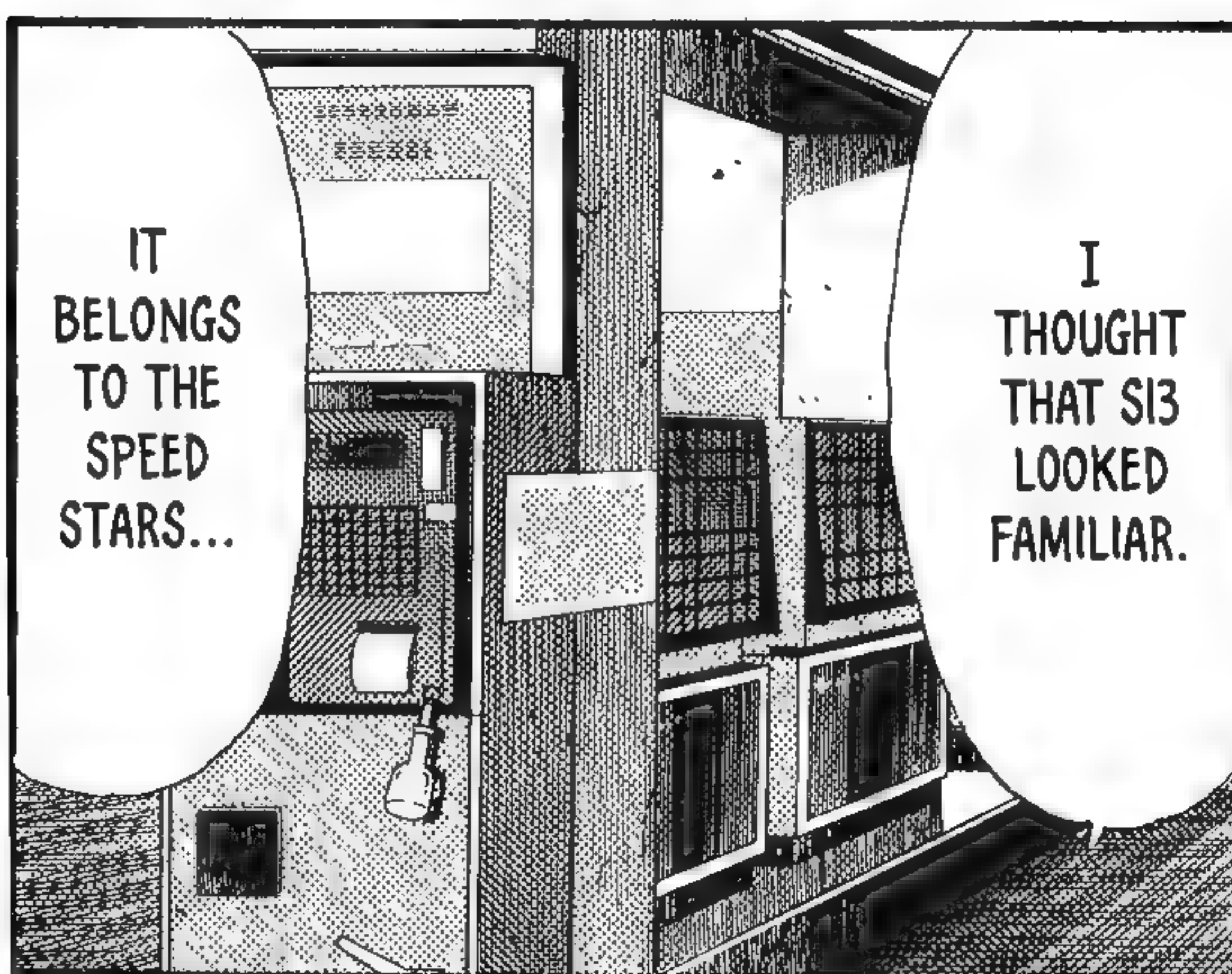
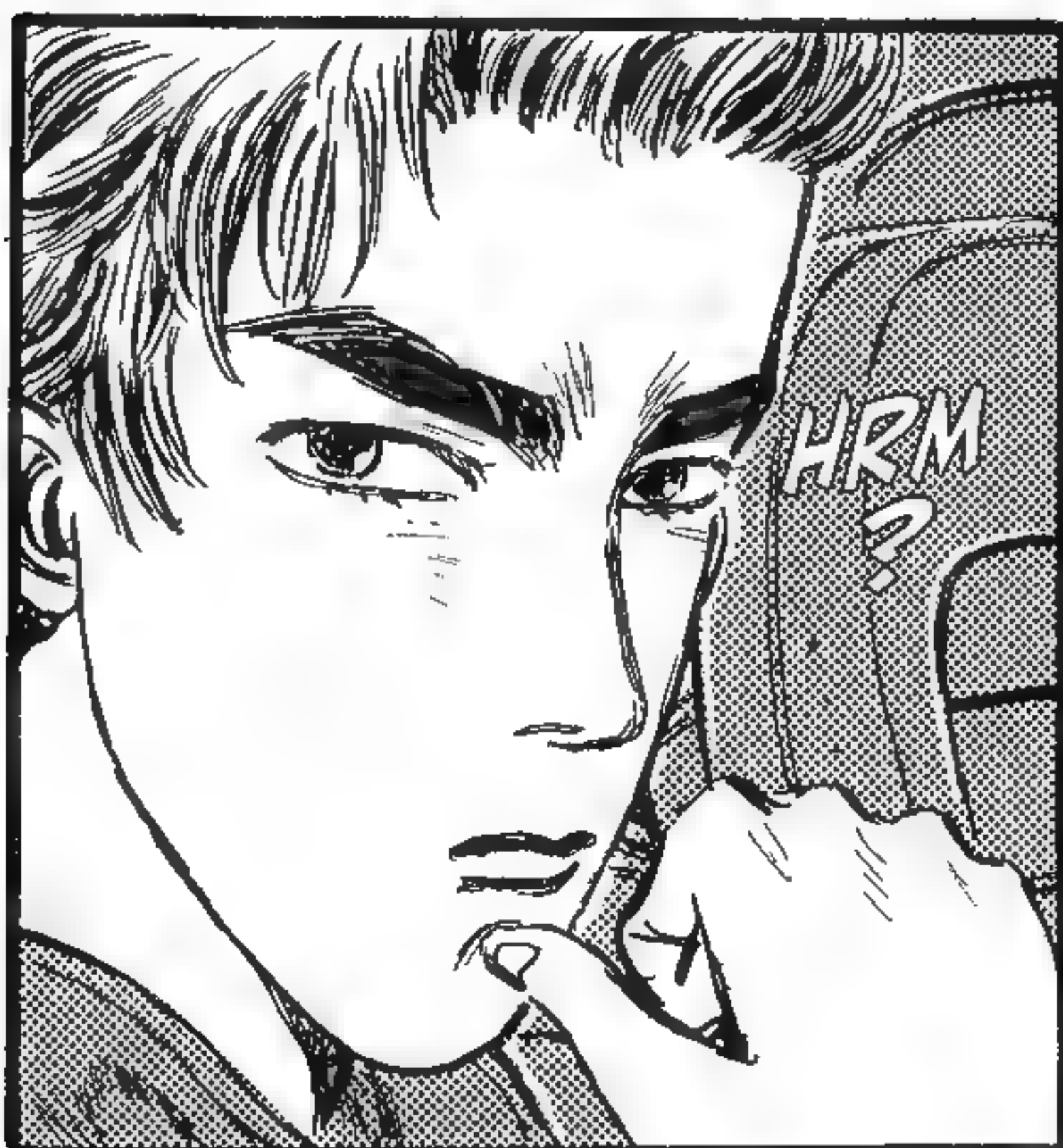
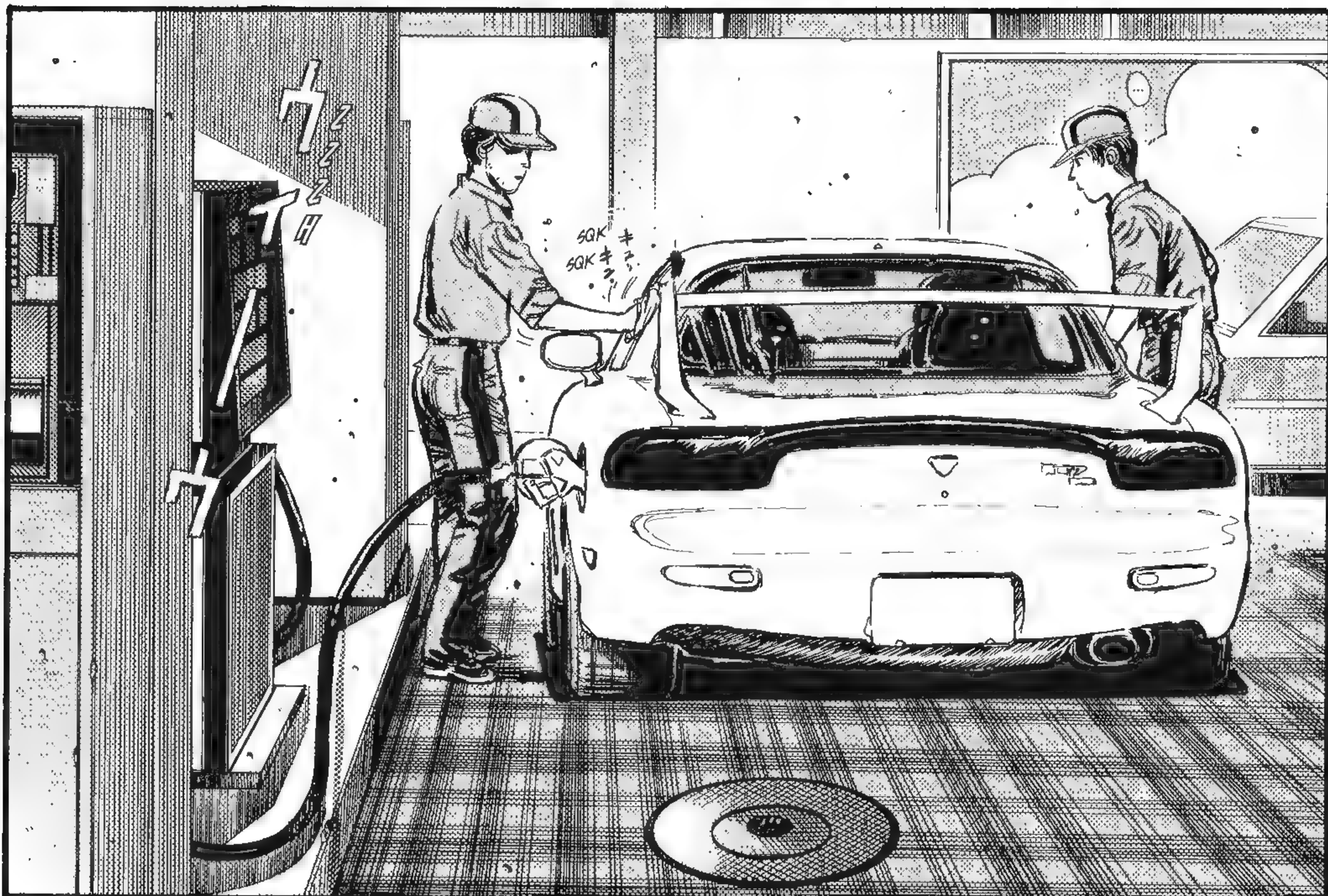
Dislikes: Skyline GT-Rs,  
ditzzy girls

Special Skill: ABS drift  
(whatever that means...)

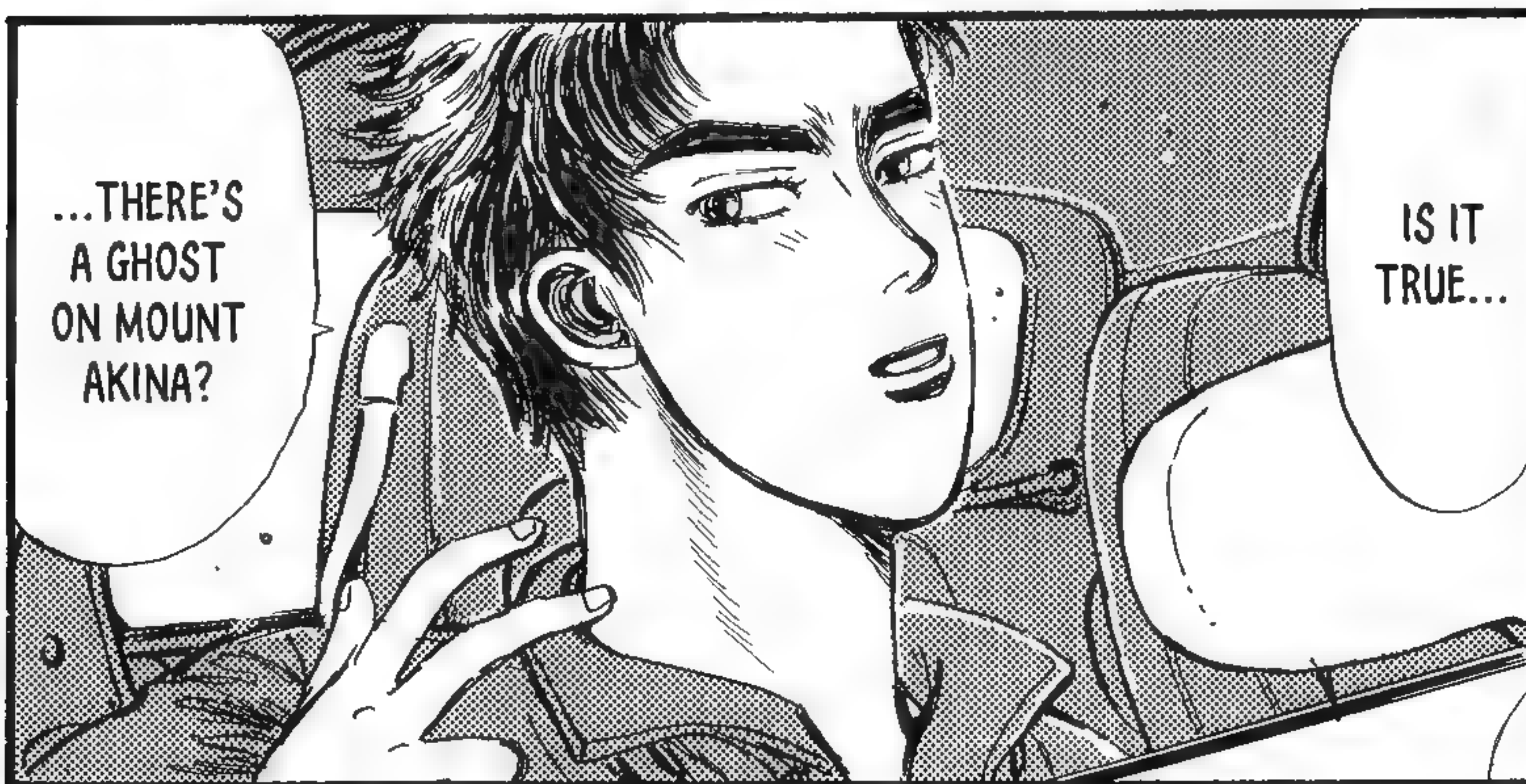
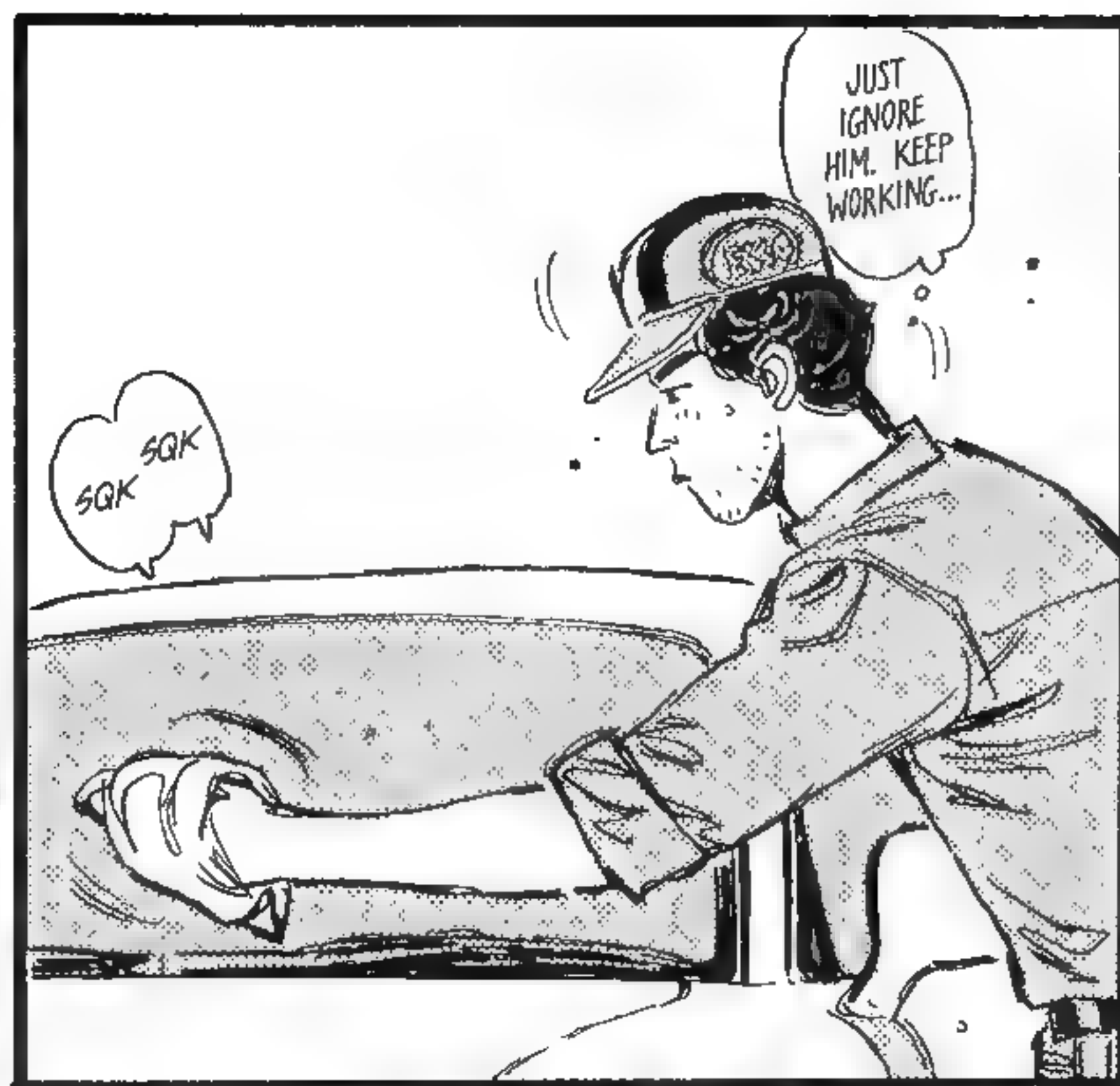


► **Ch. 5: A Declaration of Revenge!**  
**The 13B's Howling Turbo**



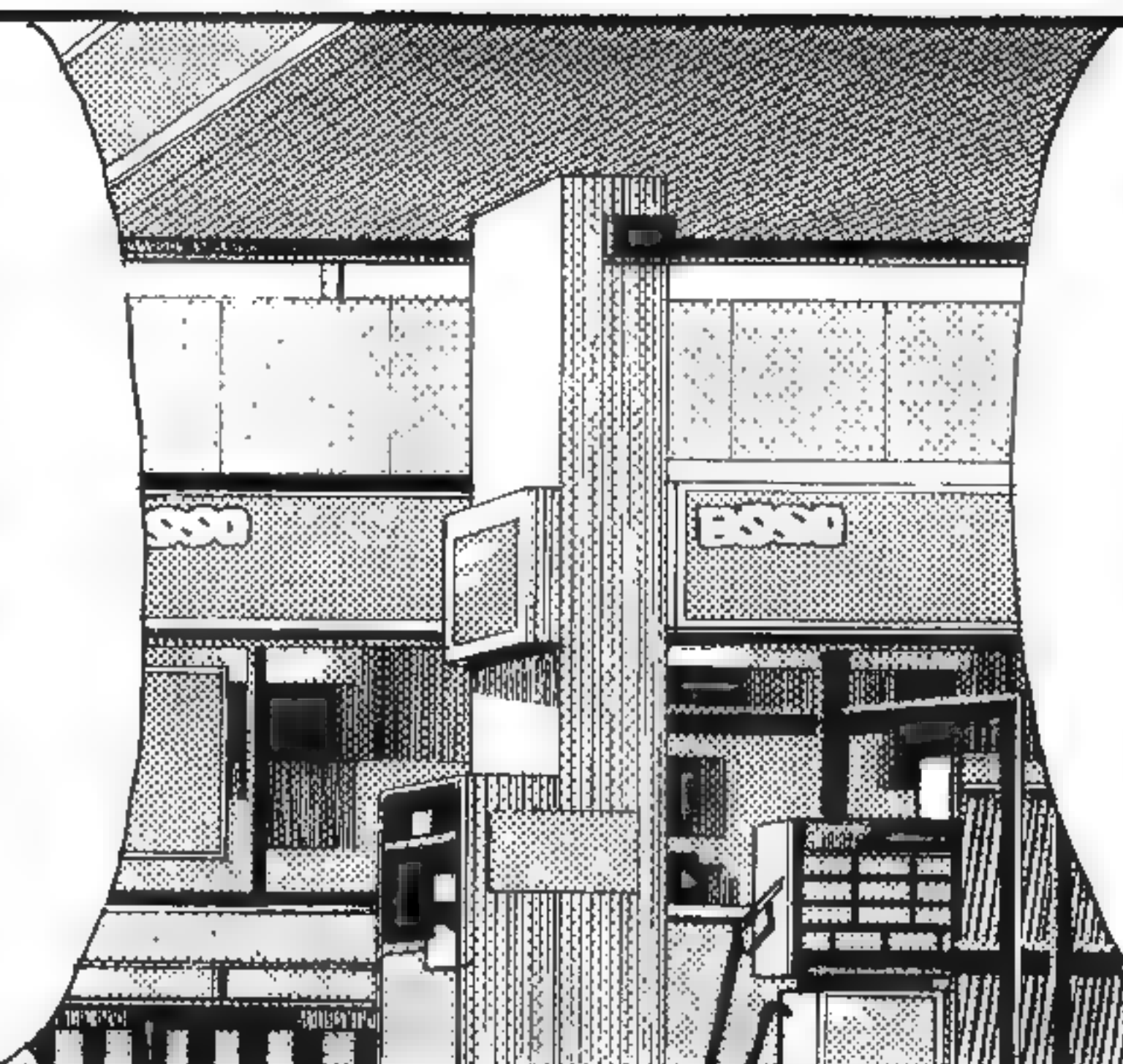








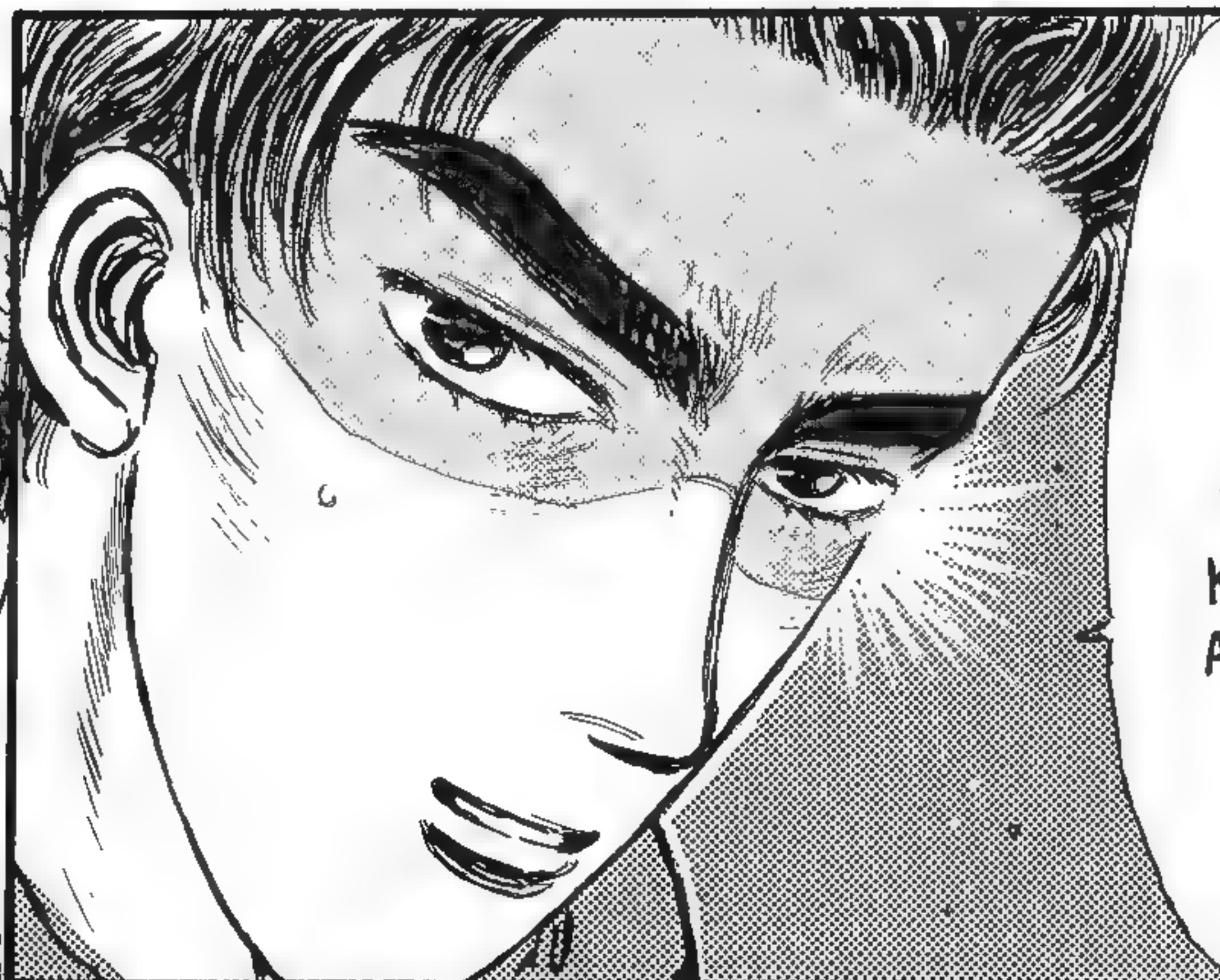
IT LOOKS LIKE ANY OTHER EIGHT-SIX, BUT UNDER THE HOOD IT MUST BE SOME SORT OF MONSTER.



FAIR ENOUGH. THE GHOST STORY MAY BE A JOKE, BUT THAT BLACK-AND-WHITE "PANDA TRUENO" ISN'T.

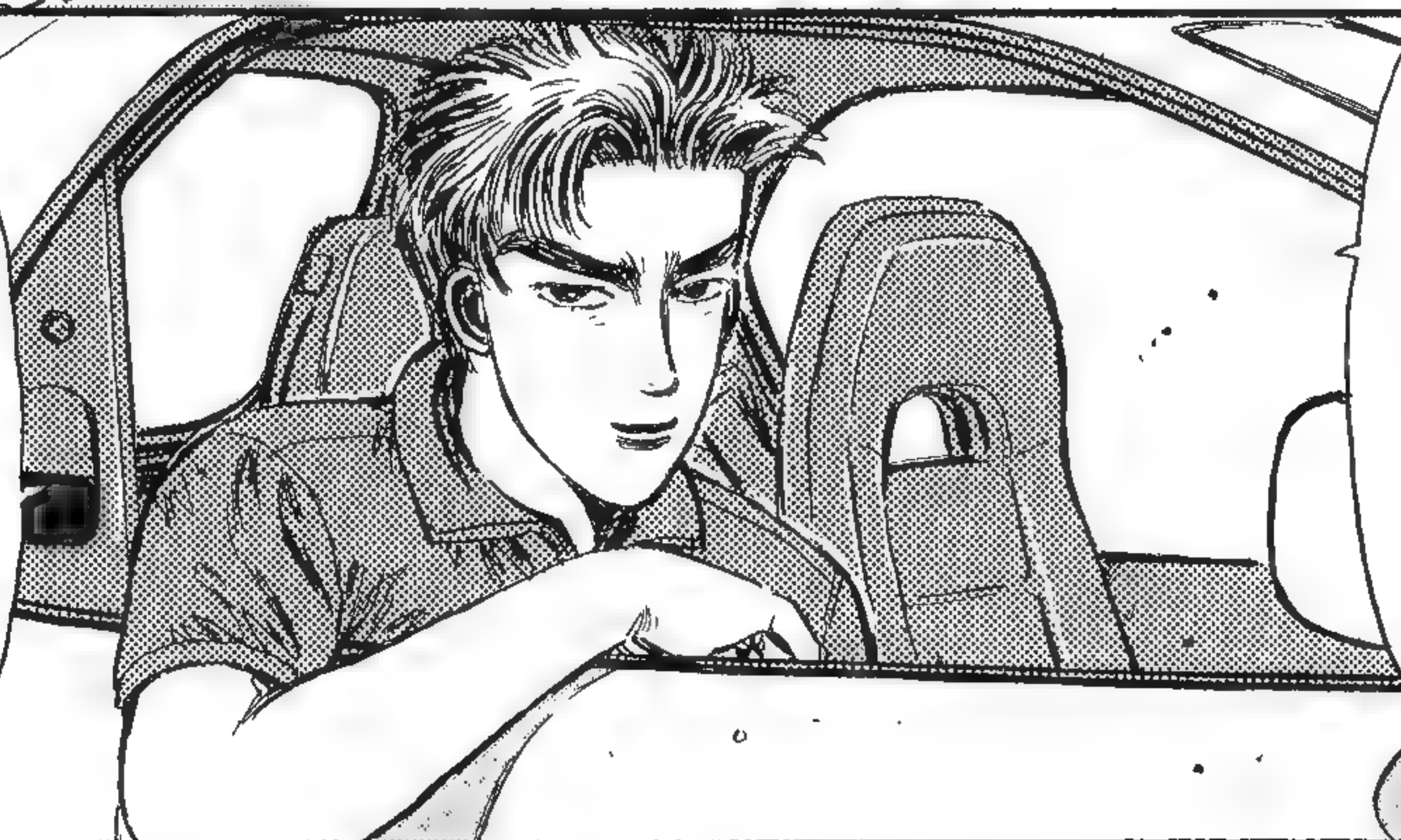


I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN...



DON'T PRETEND THE LOCAL BOYS DON'T KNOW ABOUT A BEAST LIKE THAT.

YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT A SECRET WEAPON FOR SATURDAY'S MEET. BELIEVE ME, I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT!



DON'T WANNA SHARE? HEY, IT'S COOL.

YOU HAPPEN TO MEET THE DRIVER OF THIS MYSTERY CAR NO ONE'S SEEN, YOU TELL HIM FOR ME...





BUT  
I NEVER  
LOSE TO THE  
SAME GUY  
TWICE.

HE BEAT ME THAT  
NIGHT BECAUSE HE  
KNEW THE COURSE  
BETTER, AND I LET  
MY GUARD DOWN.



THANK  
YOU VERY  
MUCH!

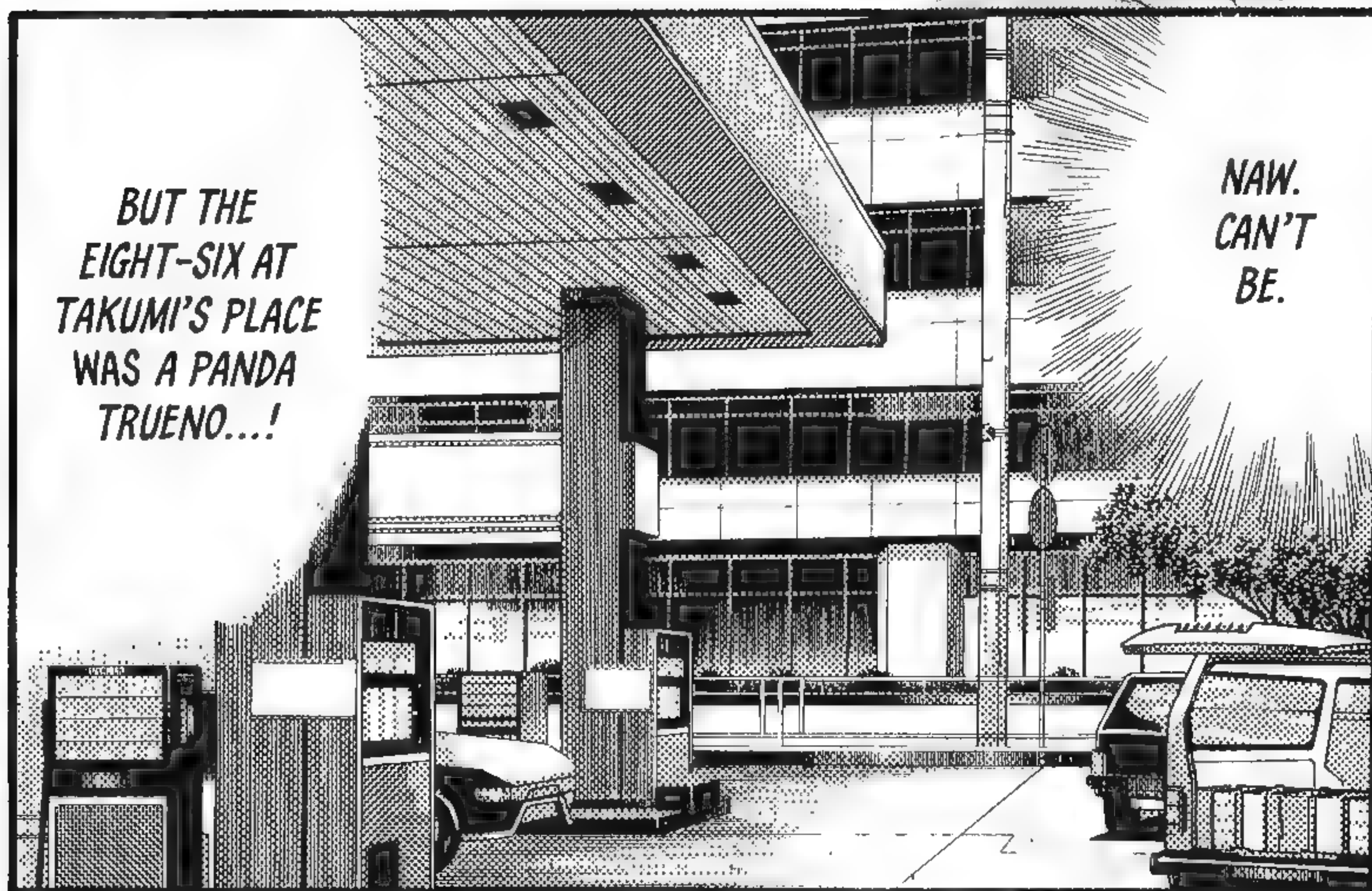




WHAT THE  
HELL?...  
LIKE I  
WOULD  
KNOW  
ABOUT AN  
EIGHT-SIX  
LIKE  
THAT!



SOMEBODY  
BEAT  
KEISUKE  
TAKA-  
HASHI?!



BUT THE  
EIGHT-SIX AT  
TAKUMI'S PLACE  
WAS A PANDA  
TRUENO...!

NAW.  
CAN'T  
BE.







I THOUGHT  
THE BOSS WAS  
JUST BLOWING  
SMOKE. WAS IT  
TRUE?

IS  
THERE REALLY  
AN EIGHT-SIX  
THAT'S STILL  
THE FASTEST  
THING DOWN  
MOUNT  
AKINA?!

SHIVER

NAH.  
COULDN'T  
TELL YOU.

WASN'T  
REALLY  
LISTEN-  
ING.

DIDJA  
CATCH  
WHAT IT  
WAS?

...

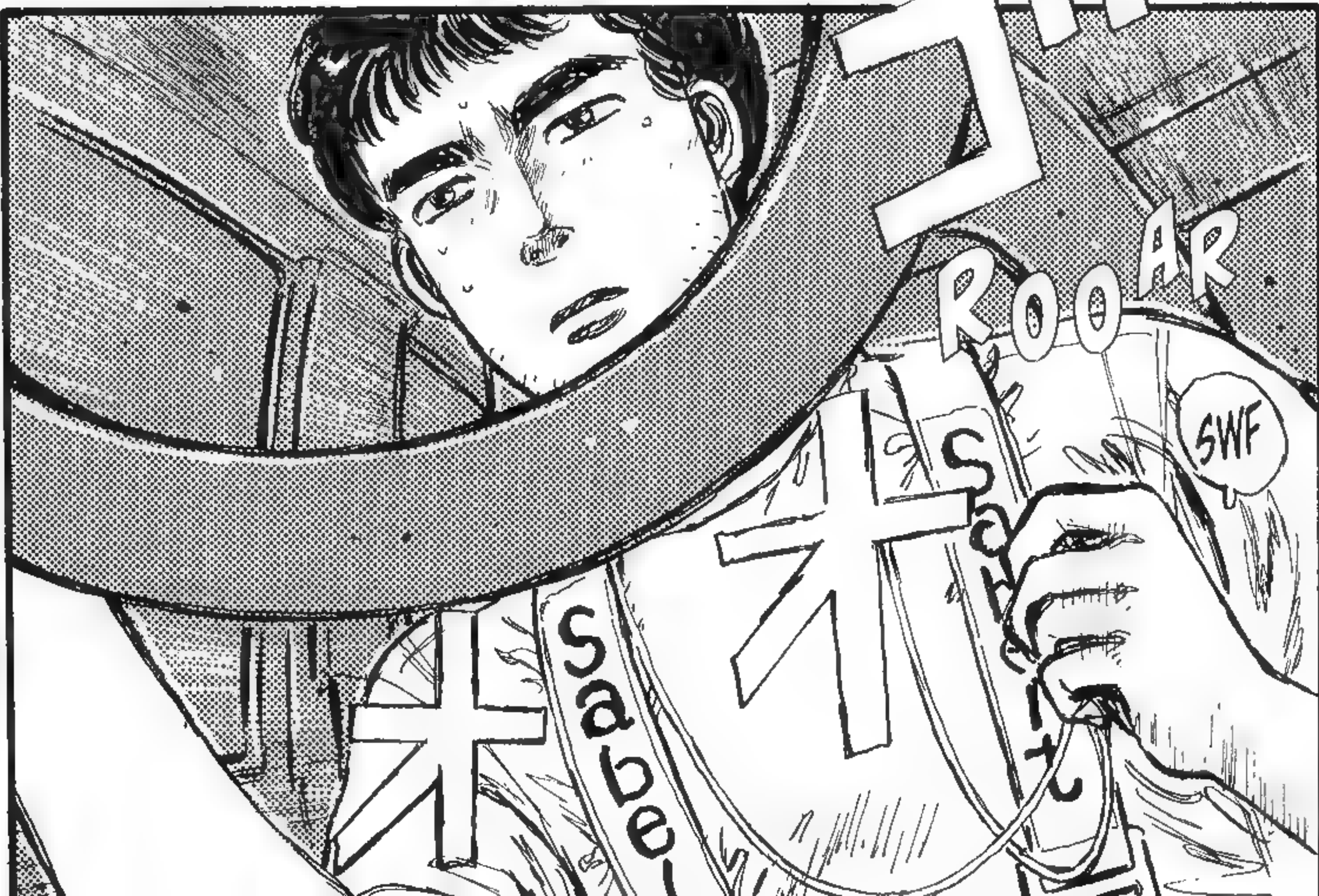
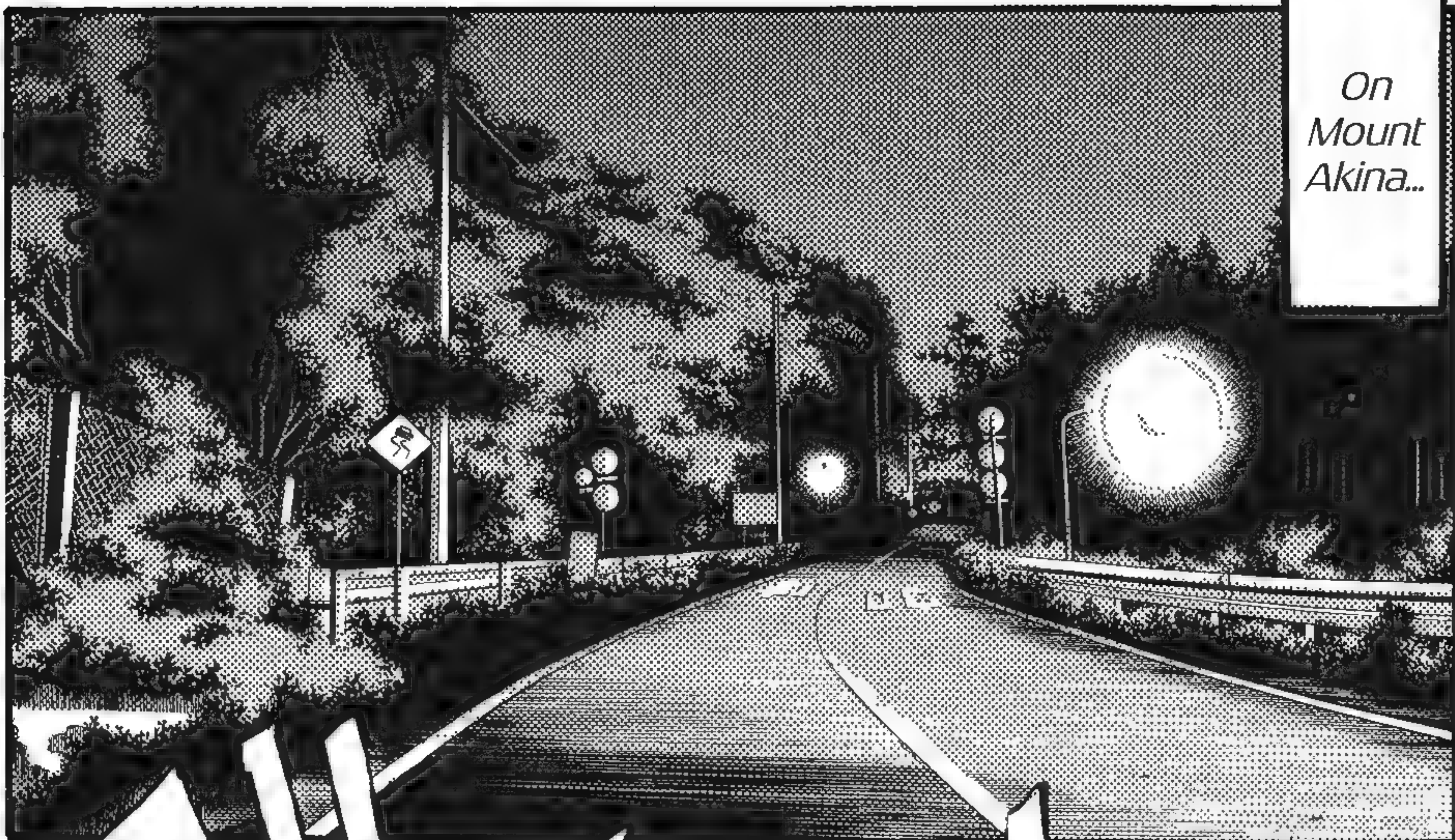
IKETANI-  
SENPAI AND  
THAT RED  
SUNS  
FD WERE  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
SOMETHING.

YO,  
TAKUMI!





On  
Mount  
Akina...





EVEN DRIVING  
AT MY MOST  
WILD-EYED,  
I CAN'T SHAVE  
A TENTH OFF  
MY TIME.

BA-DUM  
BA-DUM  
BA-DUM

NO  
GOOD.



OUR TEAM  
HAS NEVER  
HAD TO TRY  
SO HARD  
BEFORE.

I'VE ALWAYS  
THOUGHT THAT IF  
I COULD JUST HIT THE  
GAS A LITTLE SOONER,  
MY TIME WOULD COME  
DOWN, BUT I GUESS  
MY RIGHT FOOT CAN'T  
SOLVE ALL MY  
PROBLEMS ANY-  
MORE...

BM BM BM BM BM BM

I  
THOUGHT  
I WAS  
BETTER  
THAN  
THIS!

IF  
THINGS  
DON'T  
CHANGE,  
WE DON'T  
STAND A  
CHANCE  
AGAINST  
THEM.

THE RED SUNS  
GUYS ARE ALL  
MOTORSPORT  
VETS. THEY  
KNOW WHERE  
AND HOW TO  
FIND TIME.

BM BM

BM BM

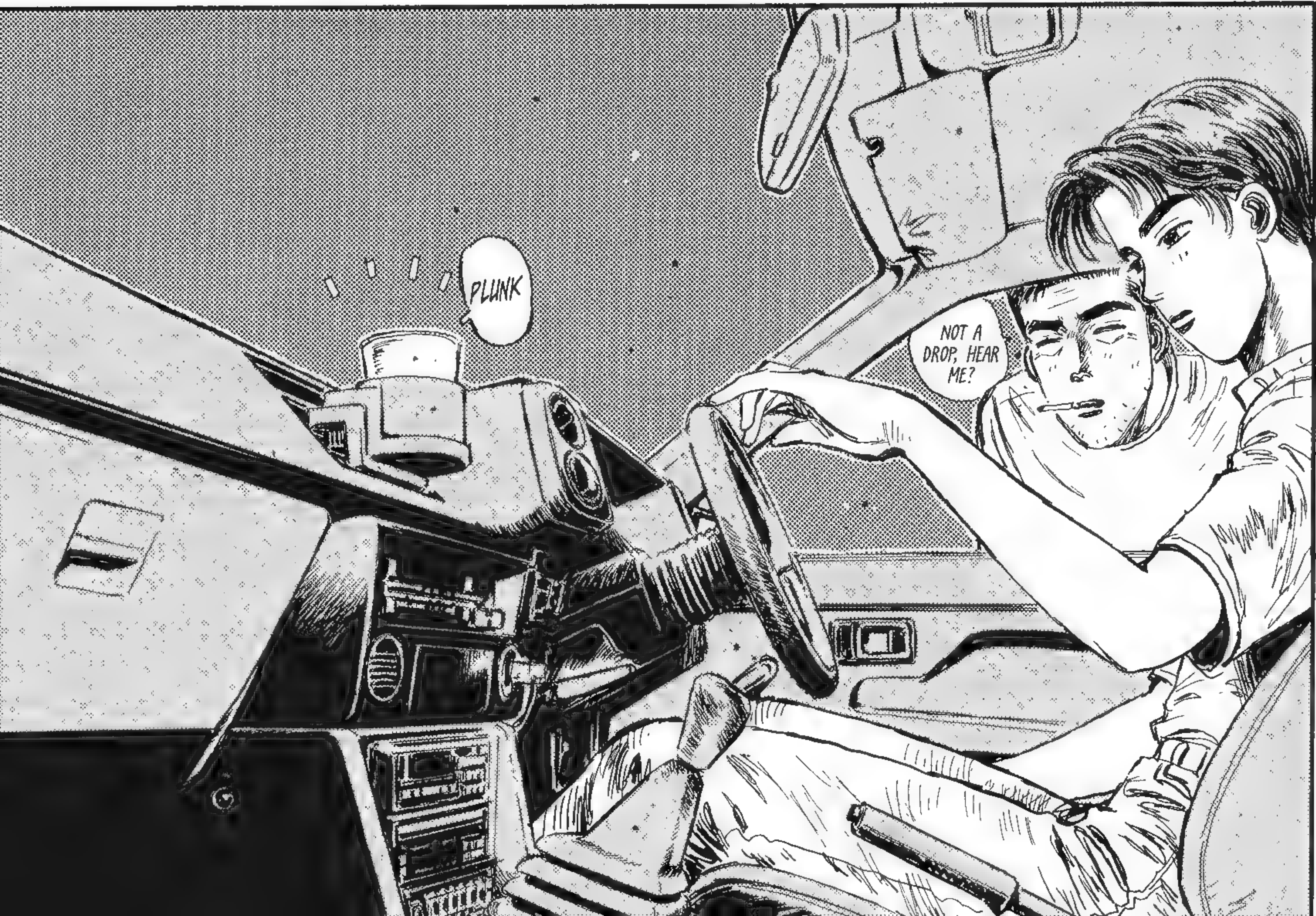
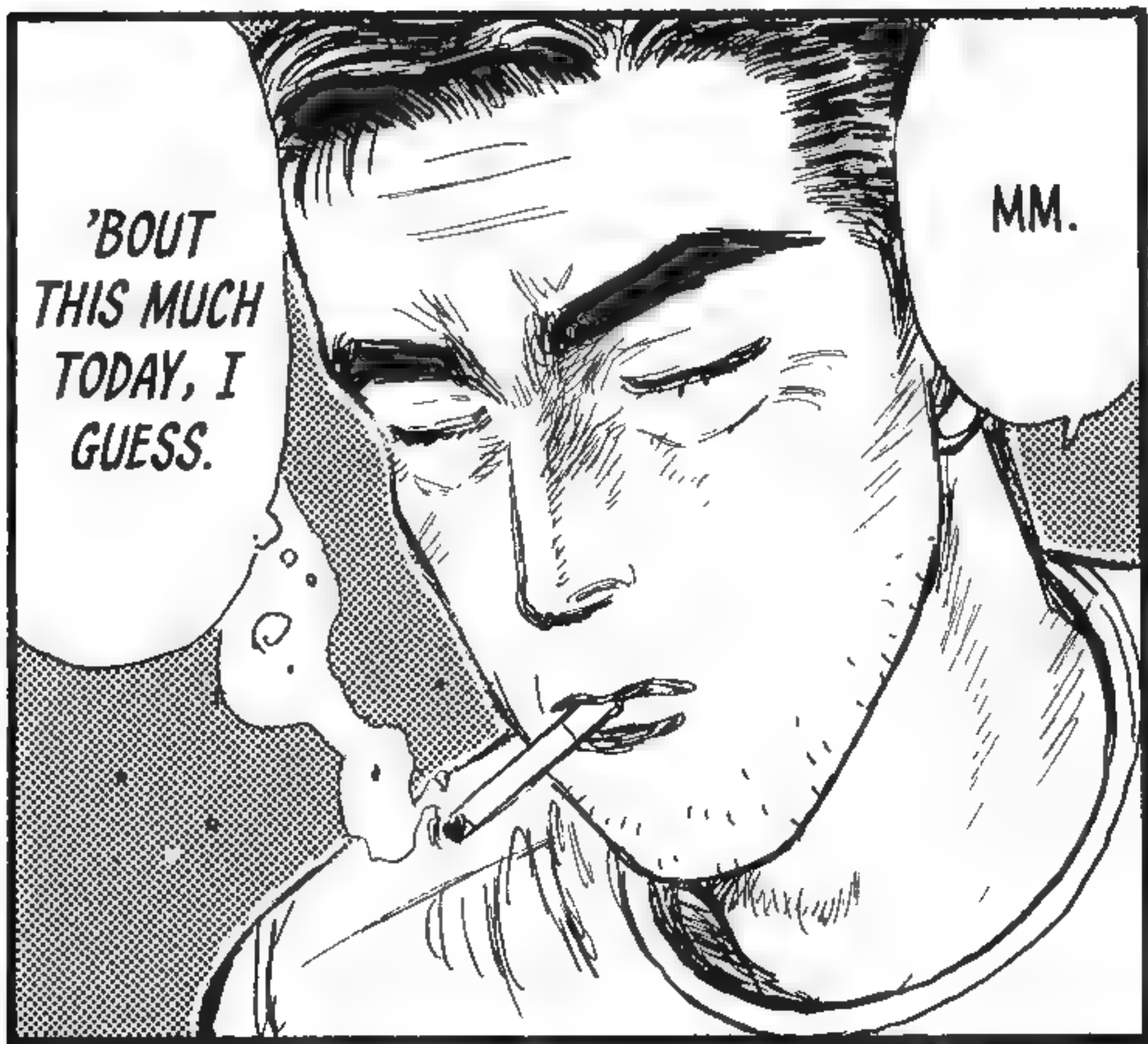
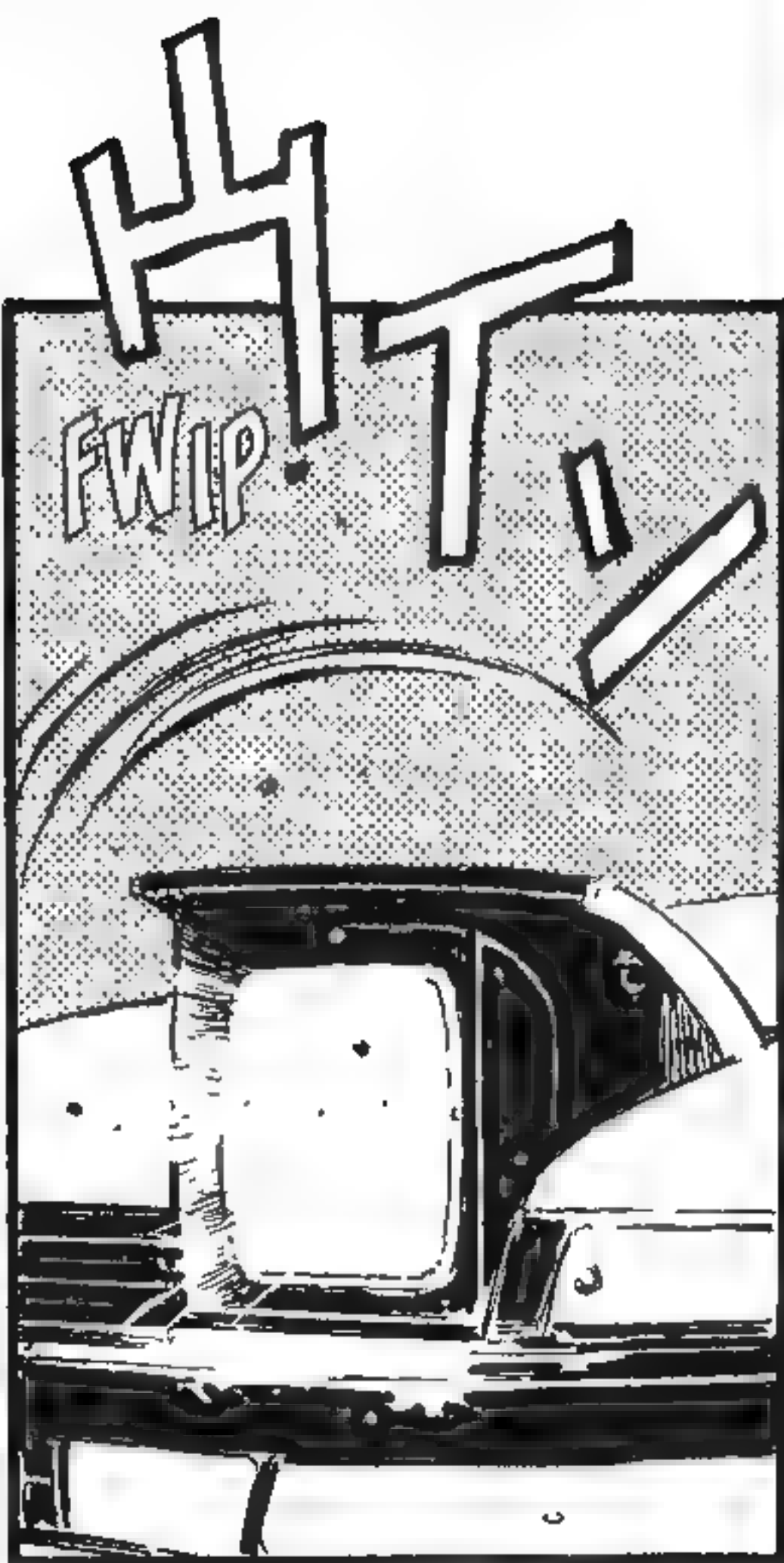
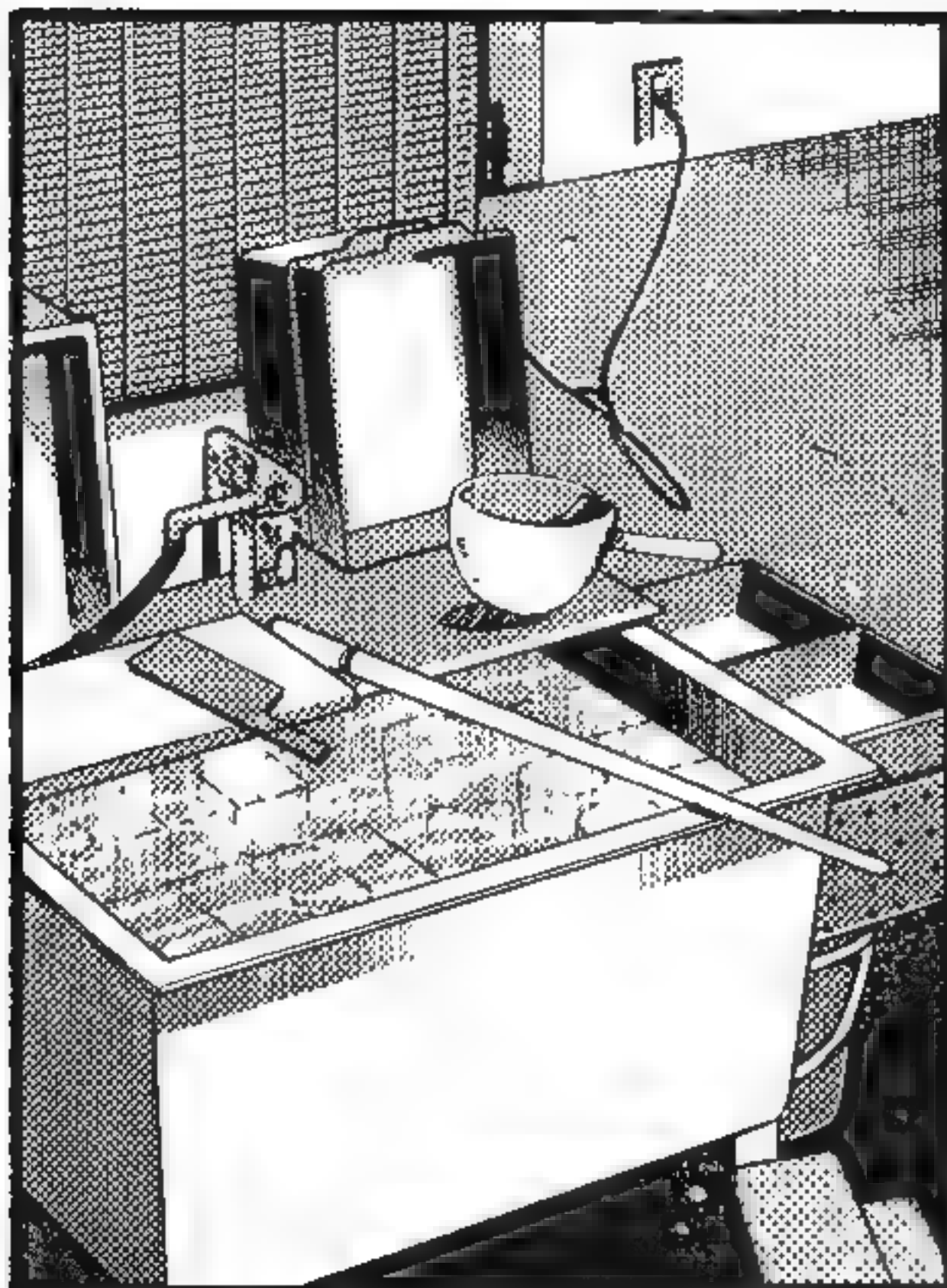
BM BM







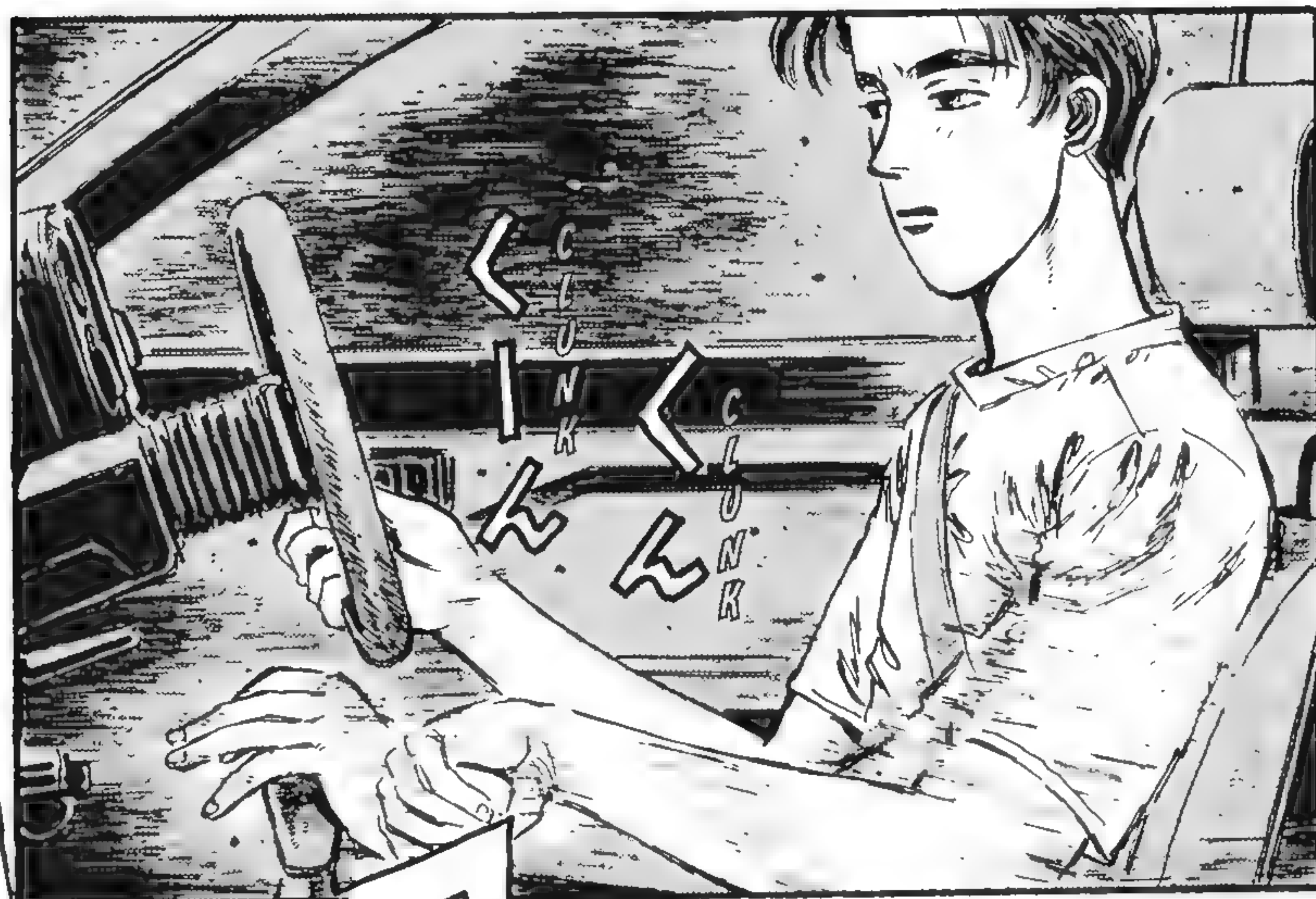




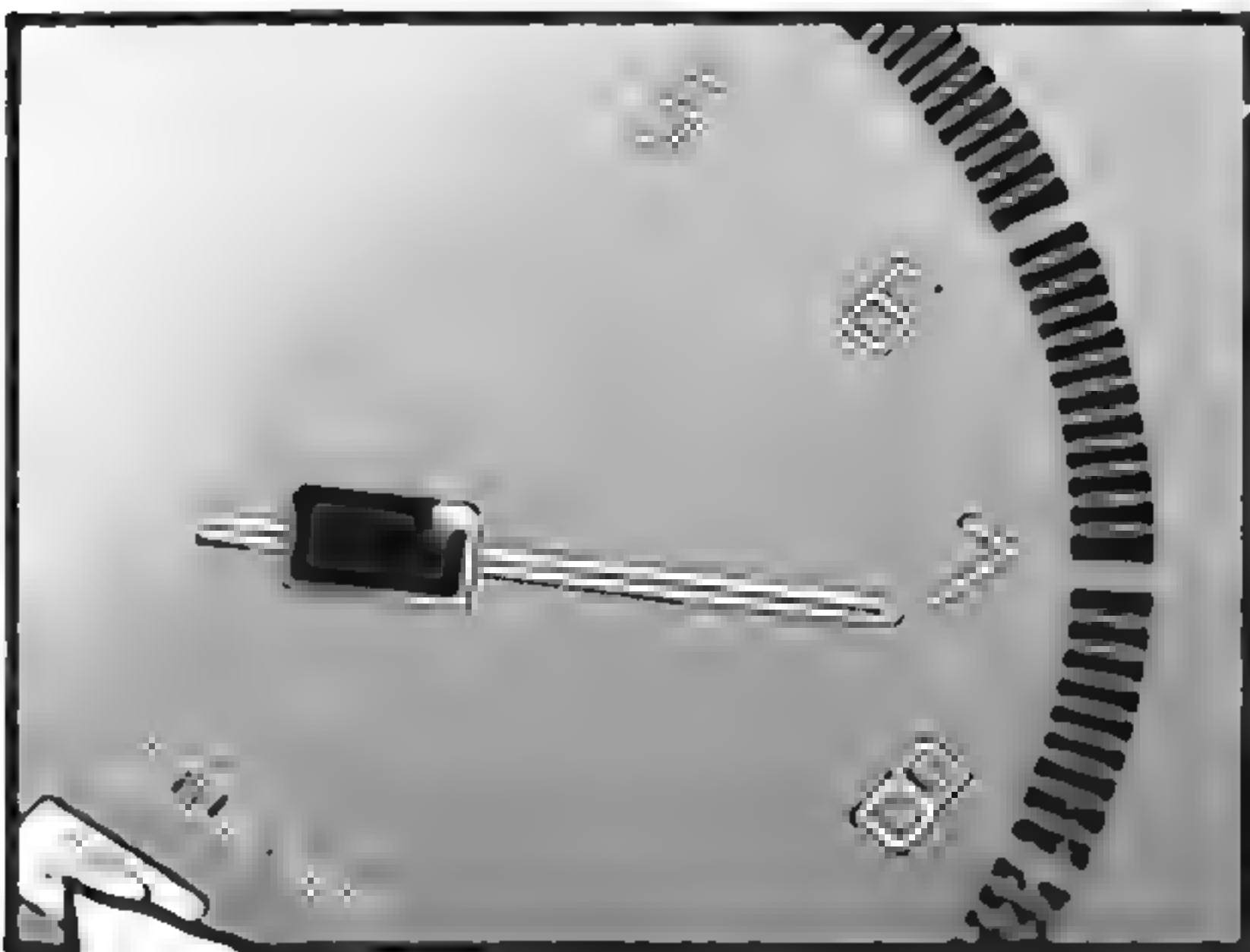




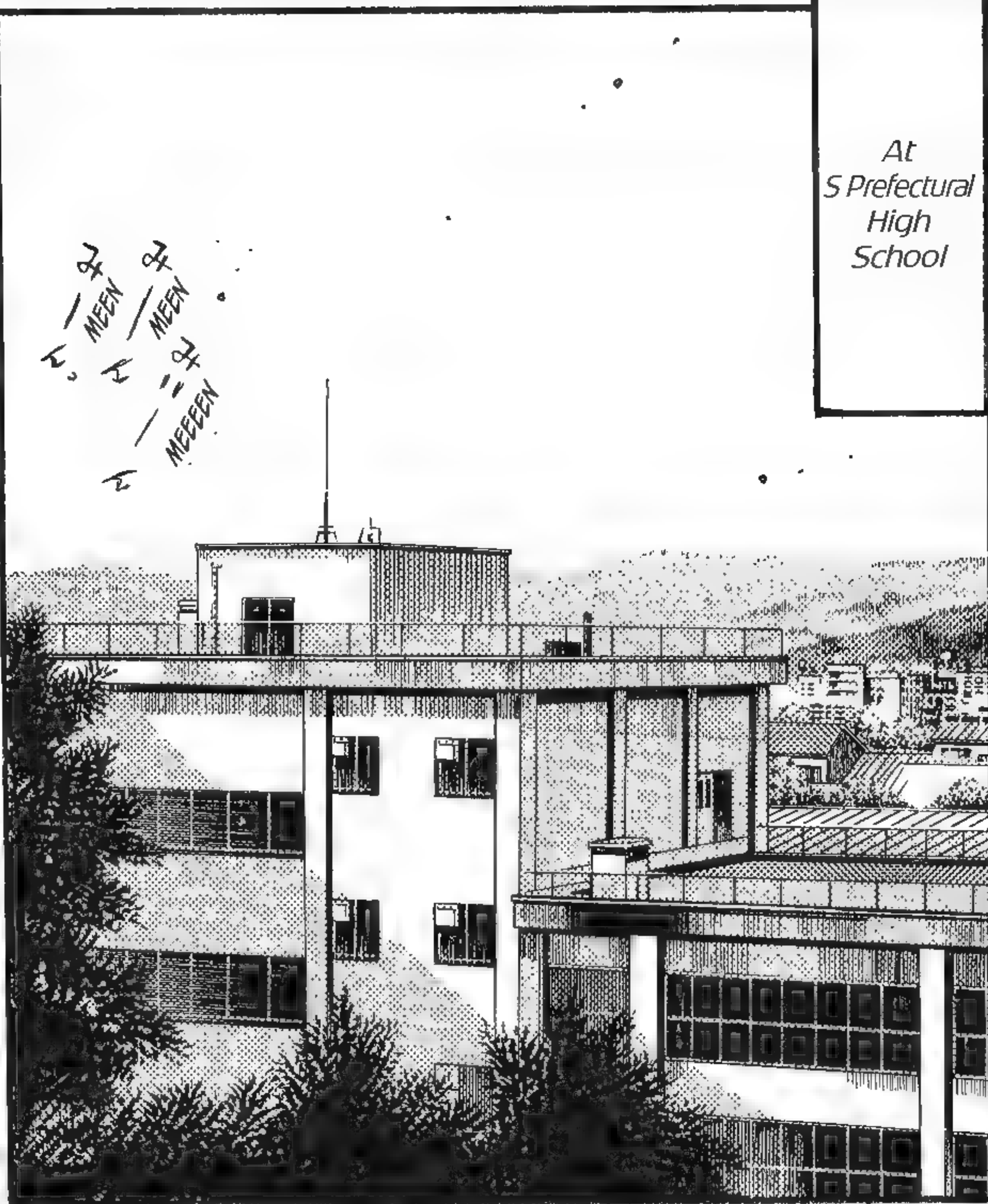
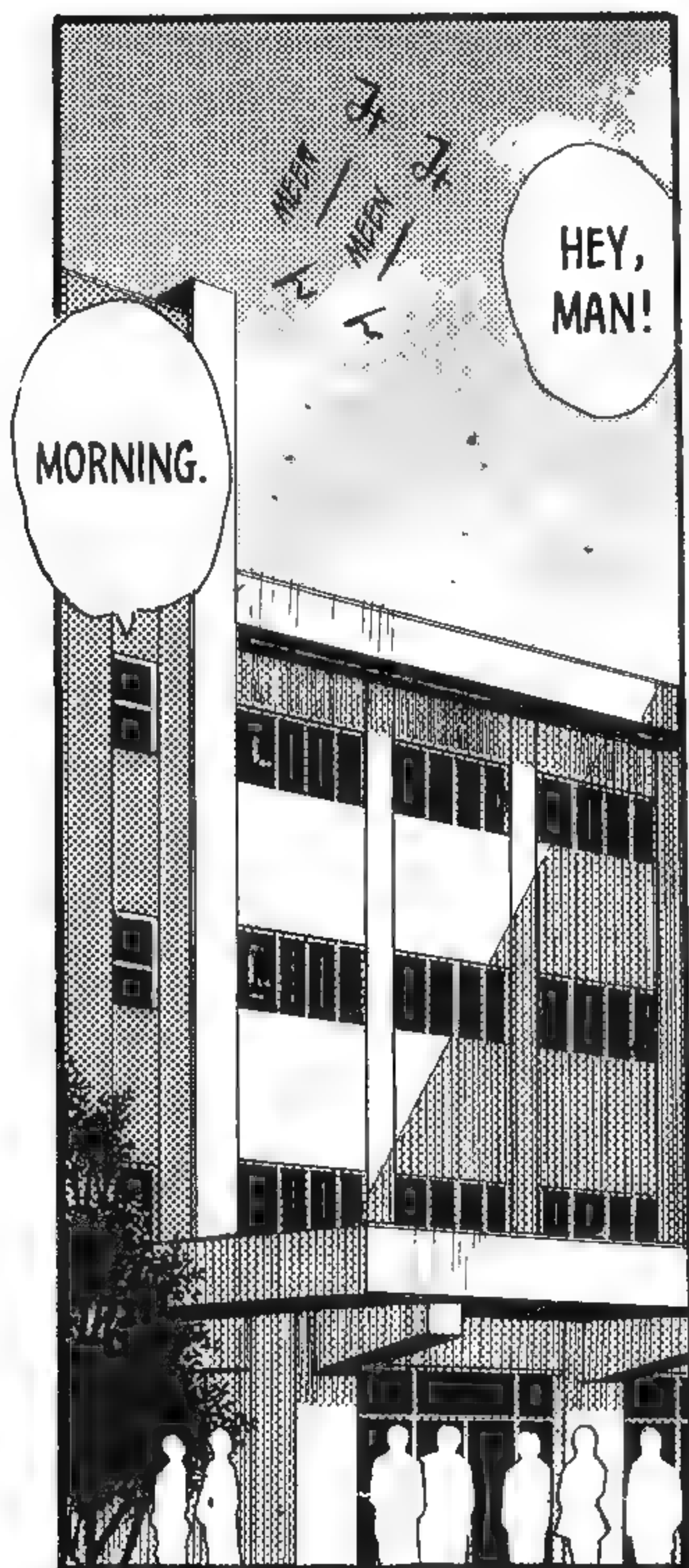










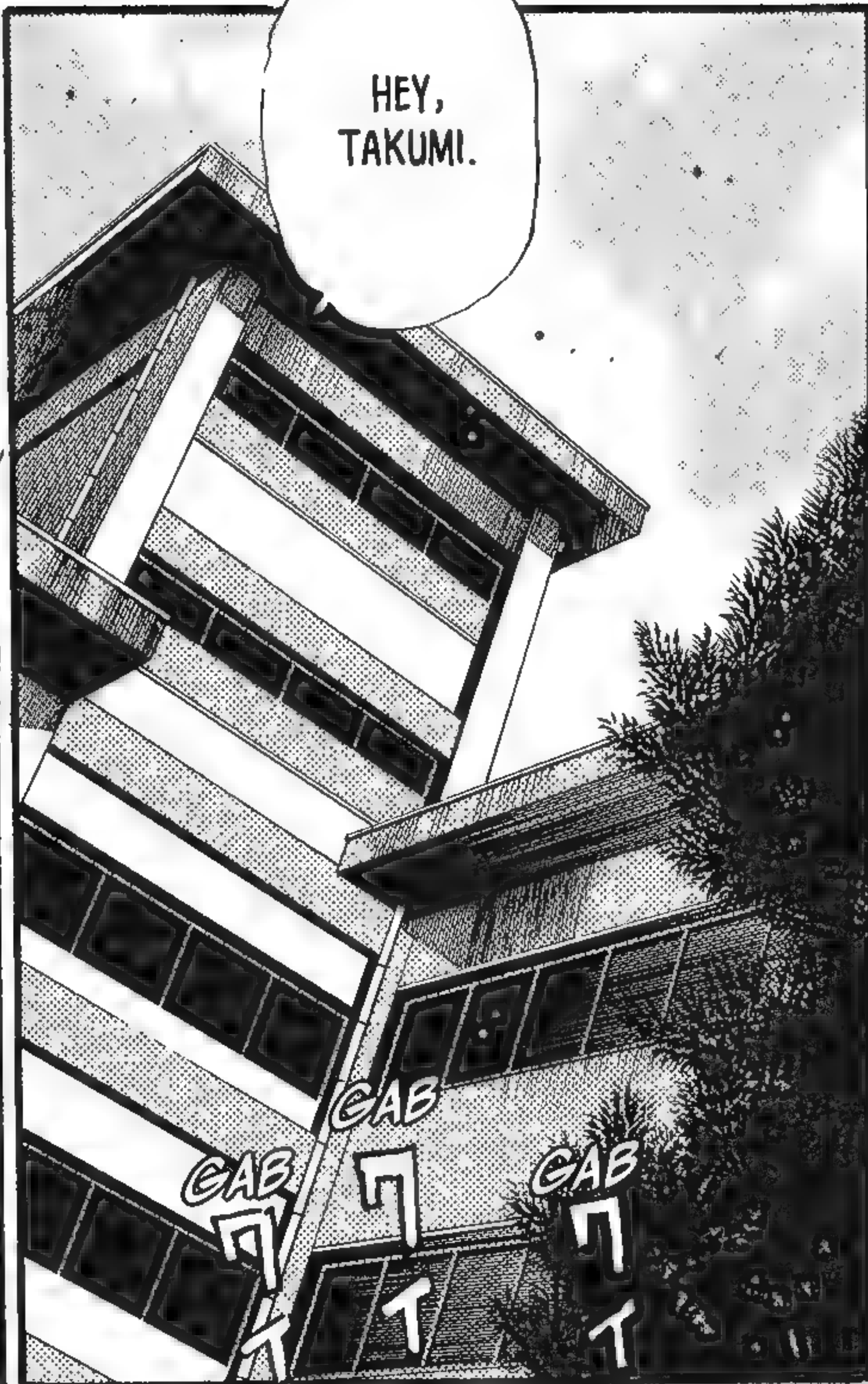






YOU LOOK  
BUSHED.  
I MEAN,  
LIKE USUAL,  
I GUESS.

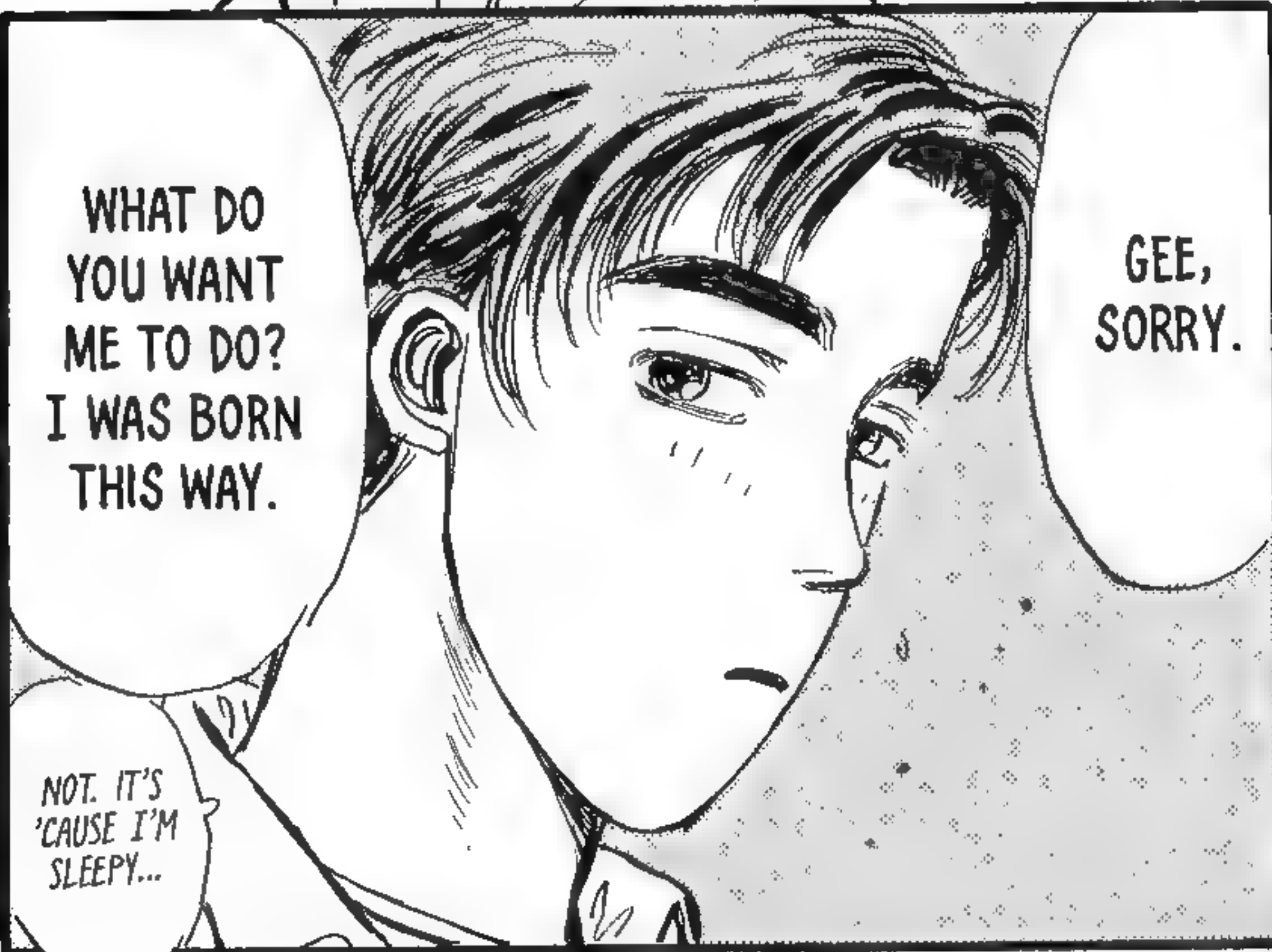
HEY,  
TAKUMI.



WHAT DO  
YOU WANT  
ME TO DO?  
I WAS BORN  
THIS WAY.

GEE,  
SORRY.

NOT. IT'S  
'CAUSE I'M  
SLEEPY...



I  
REMEMBER!  
GEEZ, DON'T  
YOU EVER SHUT  
UP ABOUT  
THAT STUPID  
CAR?



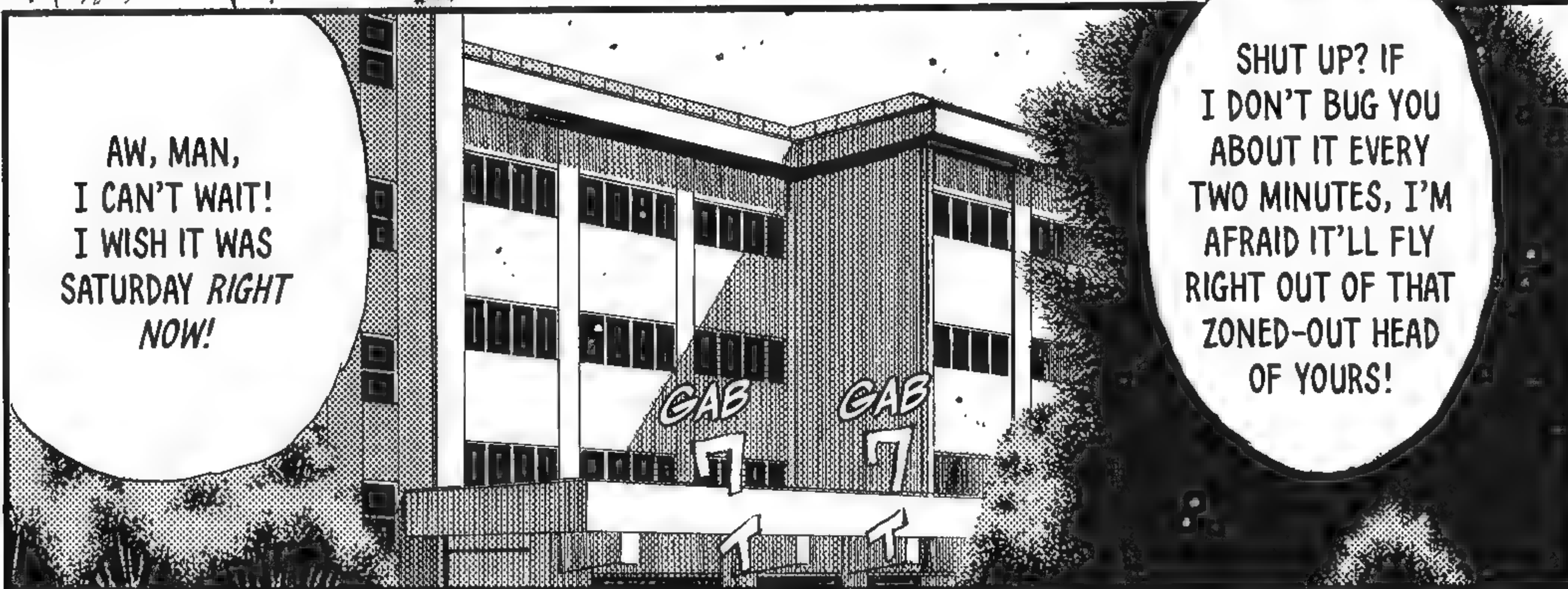
WHATEVER.  
JUST DON'T  
FORGET  
ABOUT  
SATURDAY,  
OKAY?

I MEAN,  
THE  
EIGHT-  
SIX!

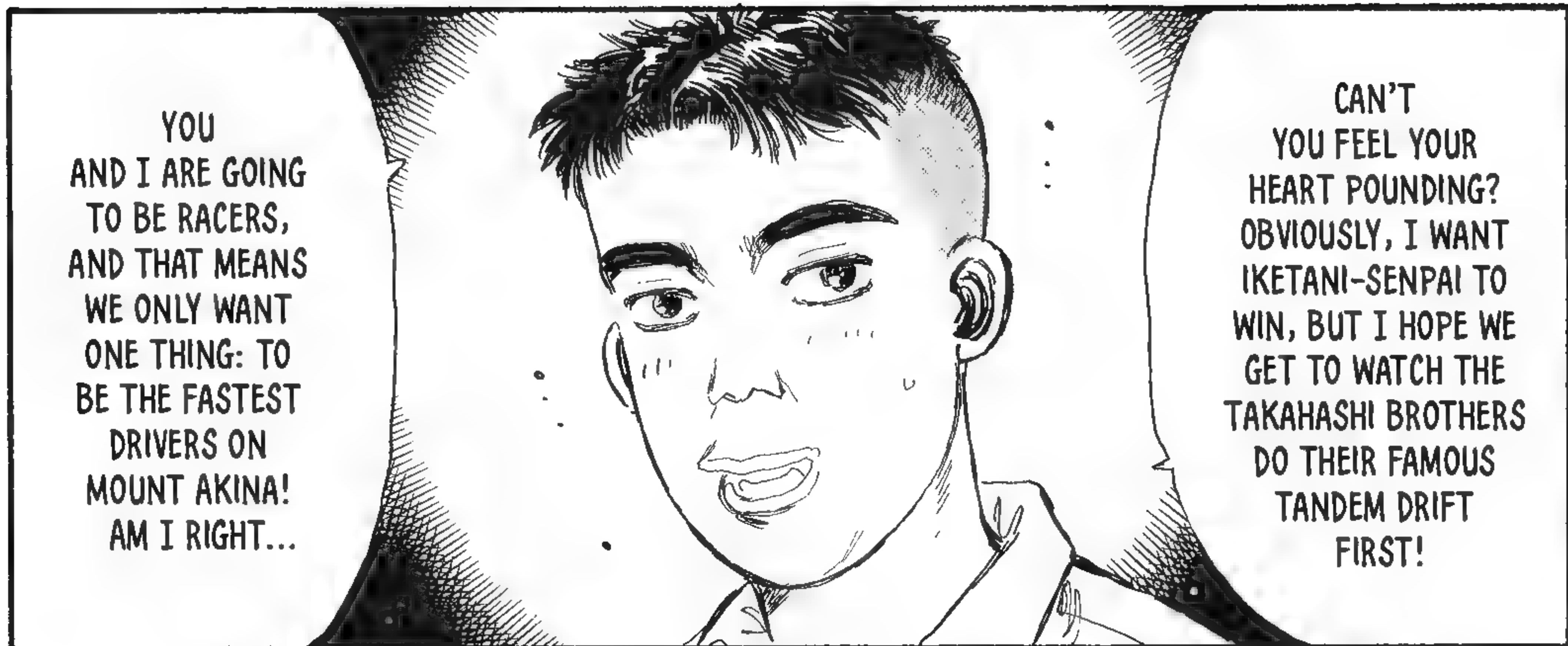


AW, MAN,  
I CAN'T WAIT!  
I WISH IT WAS  
SATURDAY RIGHT  
NOW!

SHUT UP? IF  
I DON'T BUG YOU  
ABOUT IT EVERY  
TWO MINUTES, I'M  
AFRAID IT'LL FLY  
RIGHT OUT OF THAT  
ZONED-OUT HEAD  
OF YOURS!

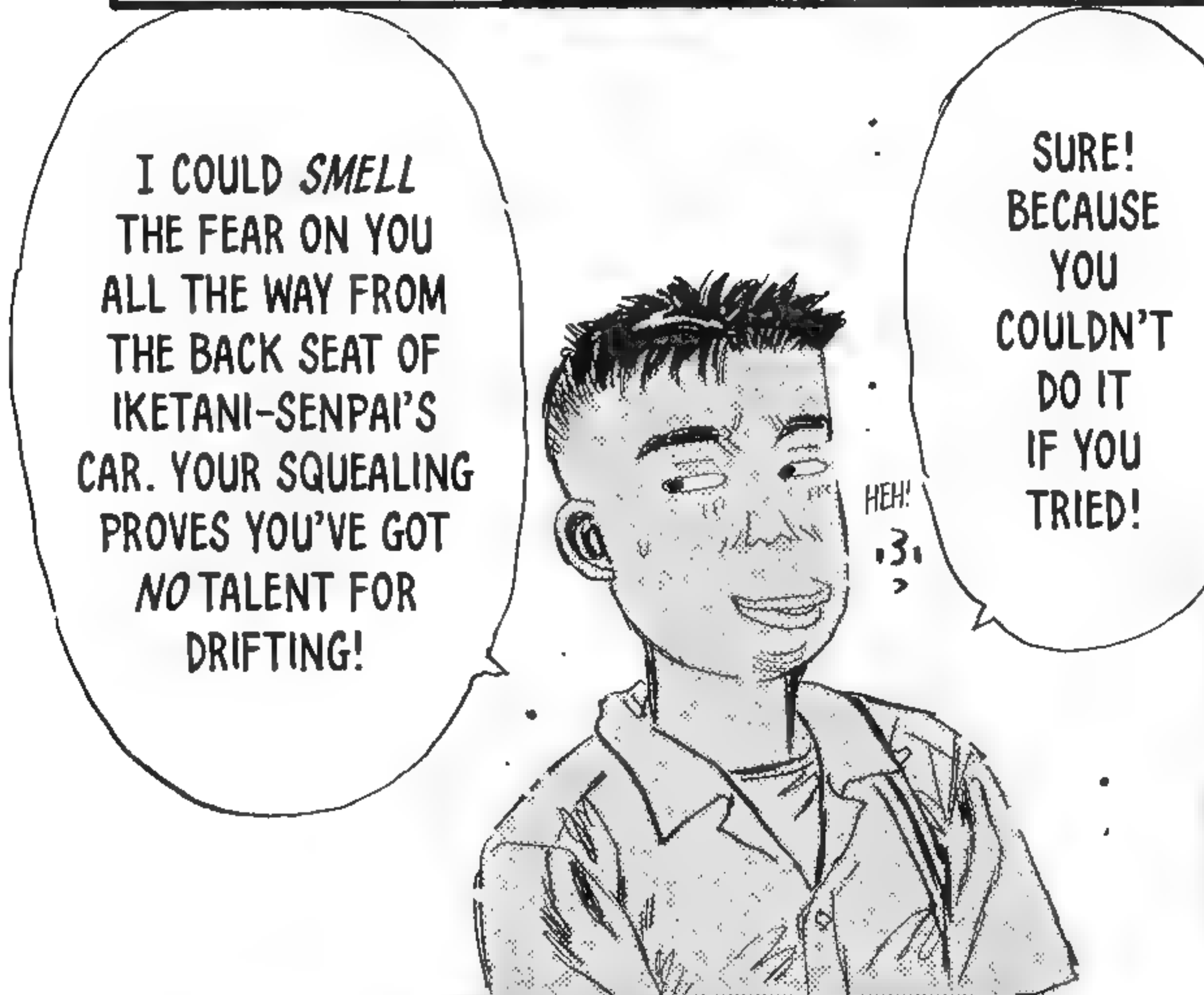






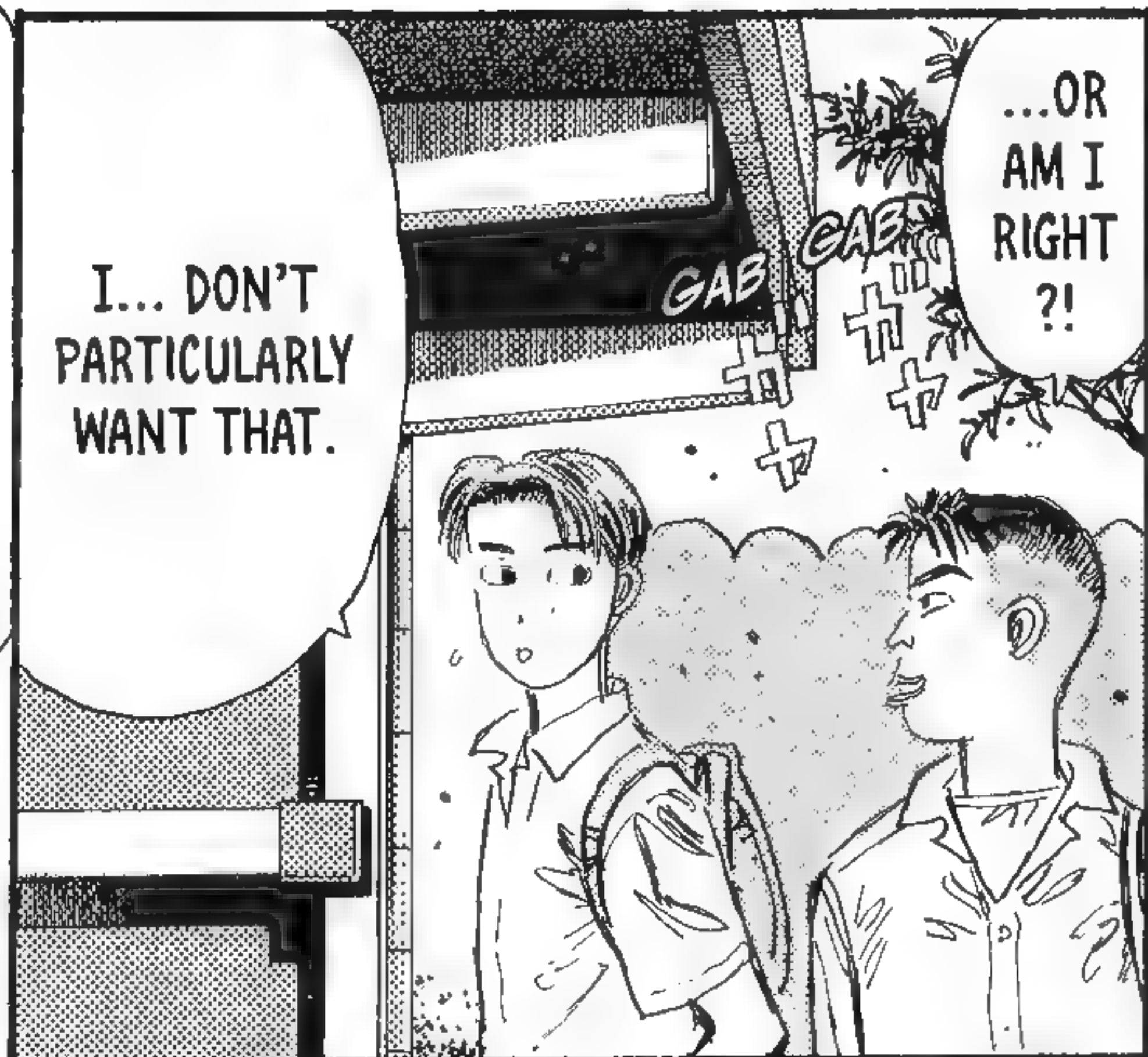
YOU  
AND I ARE GOING  
TO BE RACERS,  
AND THAT MEANS  
WE ONLY WANT  
ONE THING: TO  
BE THE FASTEST  
DRIVERS ON  
MOUNT AKINA!  
AM I RIGHT...

CAN'T  
YOU FEEL YOUR  
HEART POUNDING?  
OBSOULES, I WANT  
IKETANI-SENPAI TO  
WIN, BUT I HOPE WE  
GET TO WATCH THE  
TAKAHASHI BROTHERS  
DO THEIR FAMOUS  
TANDEM DRIFT  
FIRST!



I COULD *SMELL*  
THE FEAR ON YOU  
ALL THE WAY FROM  
THE BACK SEAT OF  
IKETANI-SENPAI'S  
CAR. YOUR SQUEALING  
PROVES YOU'VE GOT  
NO TALENT FOR  
DRIFTING!

SURE!  
BECAUSE  
YOU  
COULDN'T  
DO IT  
IF YOU  
TRIED!



I... DON'T  
PARTICULARLY  
WANT THAT.

...OR  
AM I  
RIGHT  
?!



"TAKUMI'S A  
*LOST CAUSE*,  
BUT THAT  
ITSUKI, HE'S  
GOT A *BIG*  
FUTURE AHEAD  
OF HIM! MYEH  
HEH HEH!"

I CAN JUST  
GUESS WHAT  
IKETANI-  
SENPAI WAS  
THINKING!

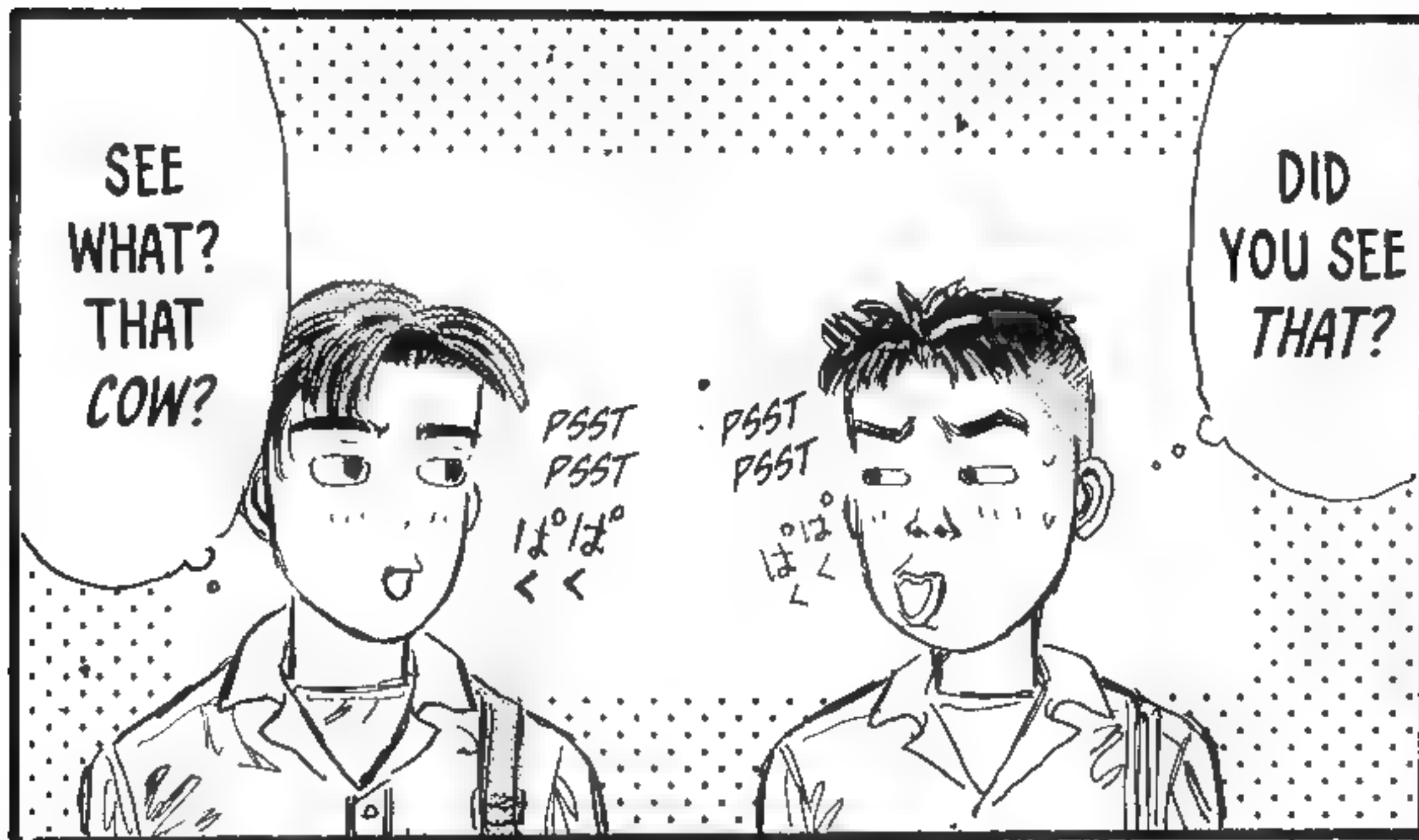
DUMBASS...



SURE, I FELT  
A MILD RUSH  
OF FEAR, BUT  
I GRITTED MY  
TEETH AND  
KEPT MY EYES  
GLUED ON  
THOSE CORNER  
EXITS!

COMPARE  
THAT WITH  
YOURS  
TRULY!

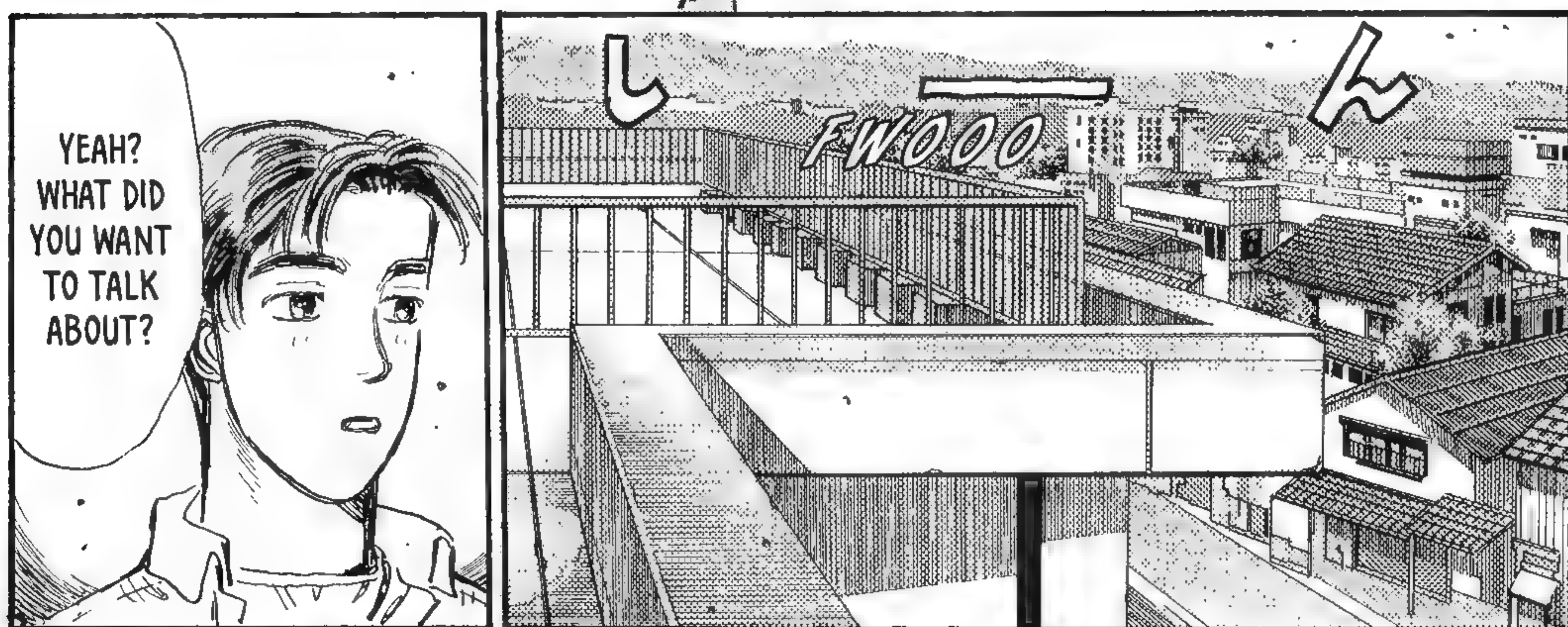










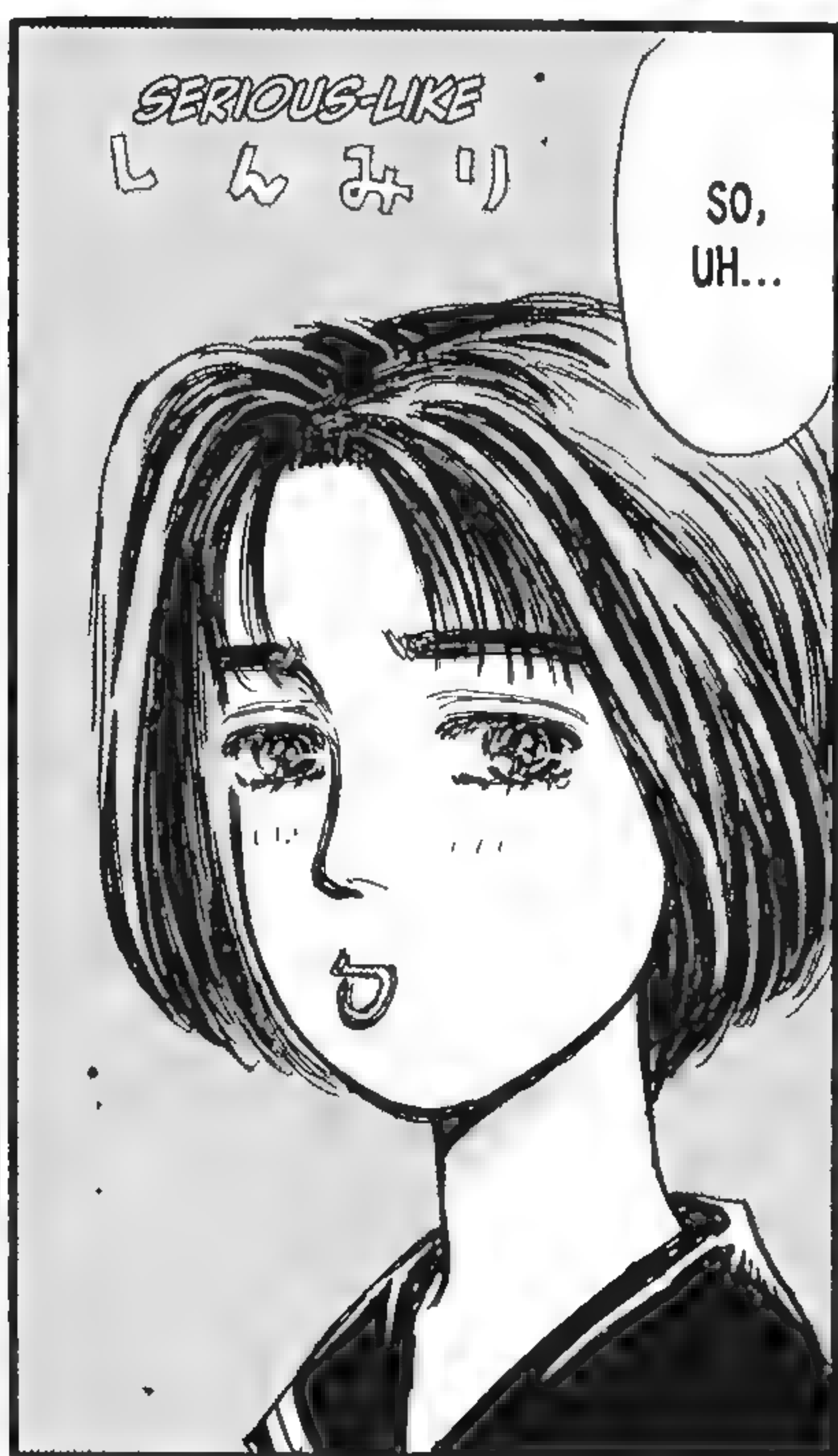
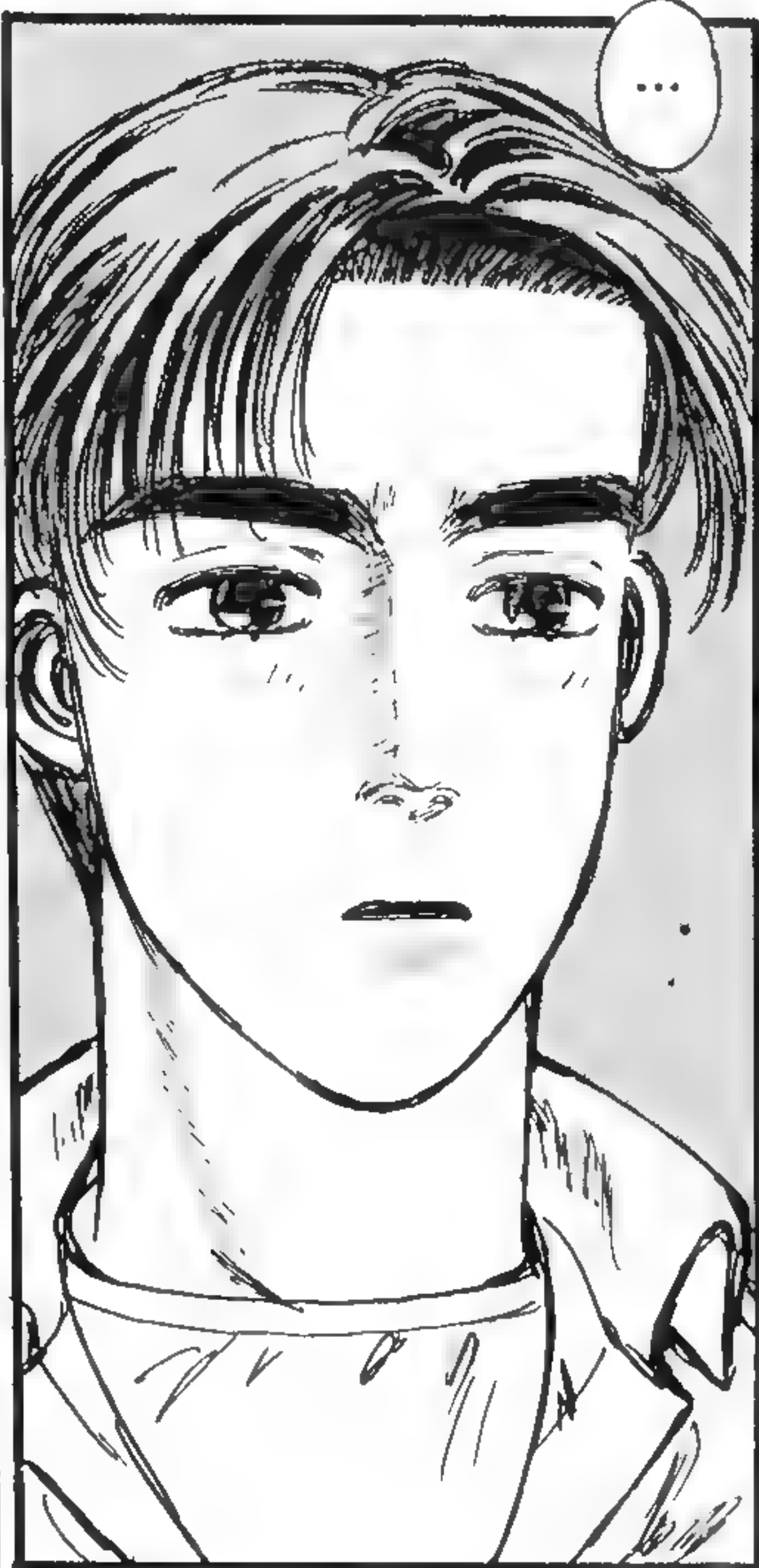
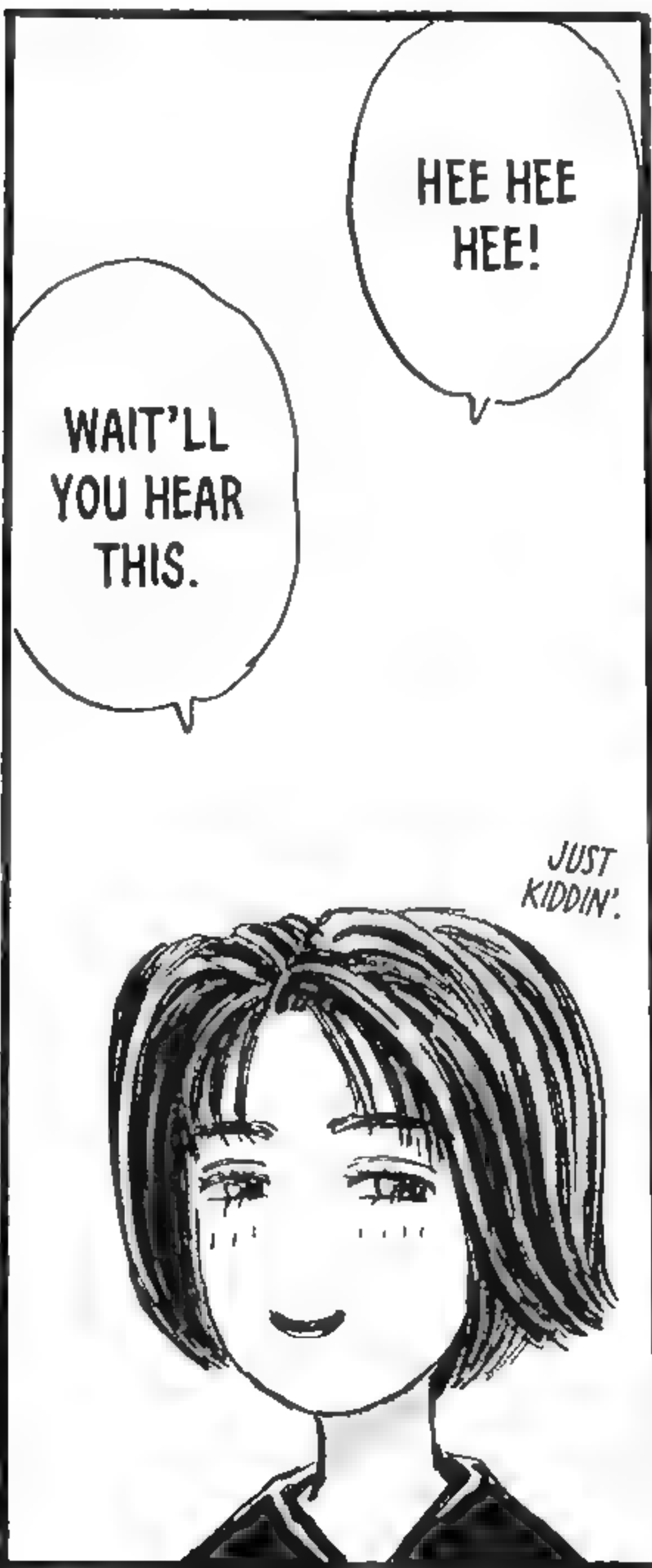
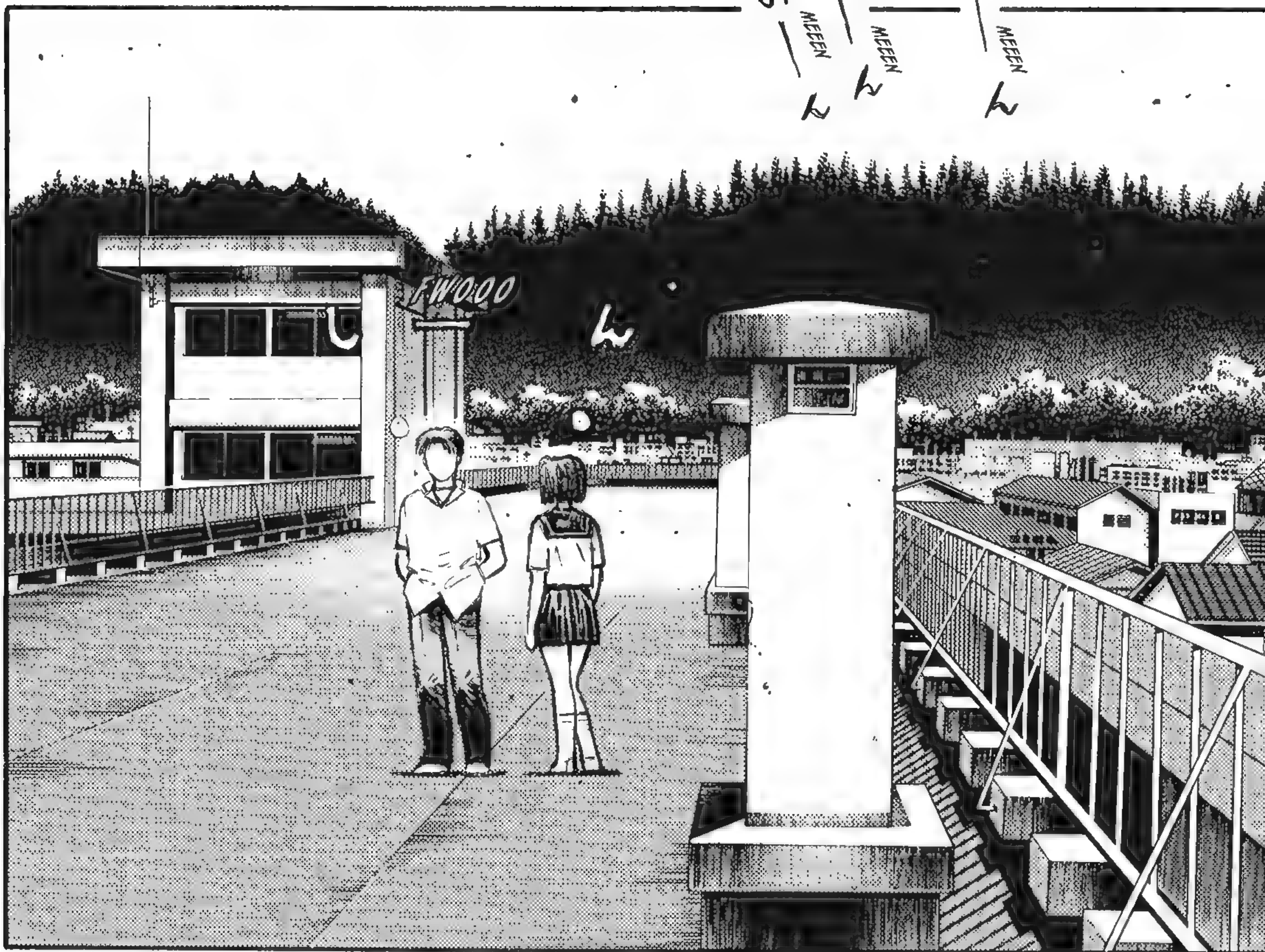




▶ *Ch. 6: Natsuki's Secret*









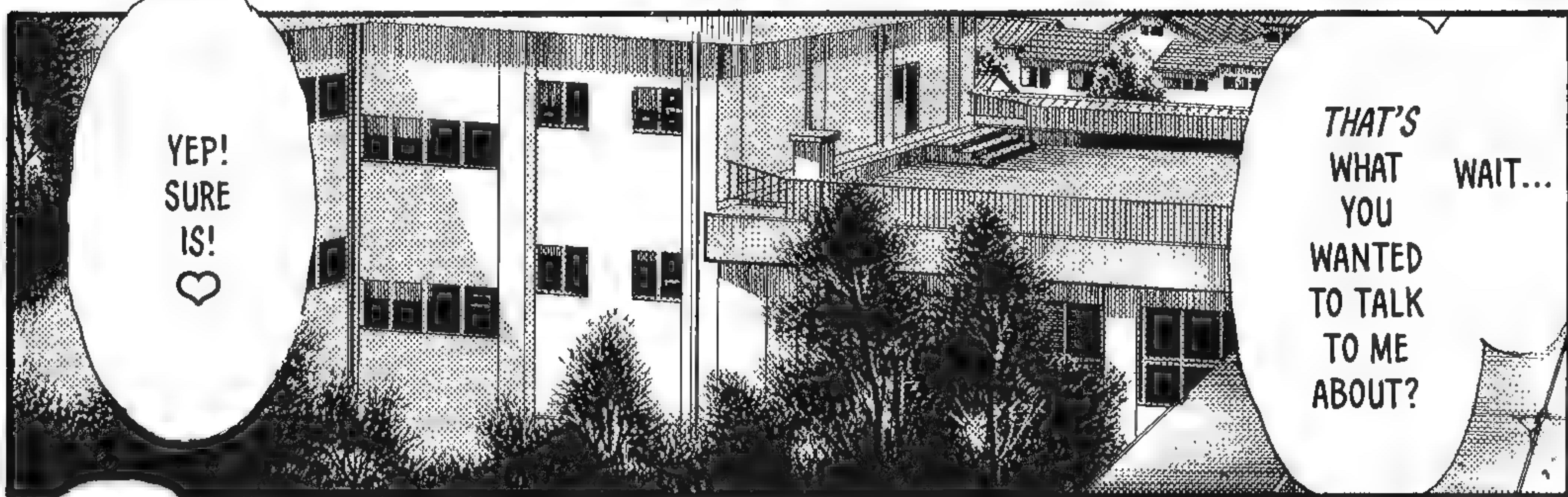


YOU WHAT?



YOU'RE GONNA LOVE HOW IT LOOKS.

I BOUGHT A *BRAND-NEW* SWIMSUIT JUST FOR OUR TRIP.



YEP! SURE IS! ♡

THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT? WAIT...



DON'T YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT *COLOR* IT IS? GO ON, GUESS!

DON'T YOU WANNA SEE IT?



I LIKE IT SO MUCH THAT I JUST *HAD* TO TELL SOMEBODY BEFORE I BURST!

TEE HEE!

It MEEN / h MEEN / h



SHEESH! THE WAY YOU STARTED OUT, I WAS BRACING MYSELF FOR SOME BIG REVELATION!

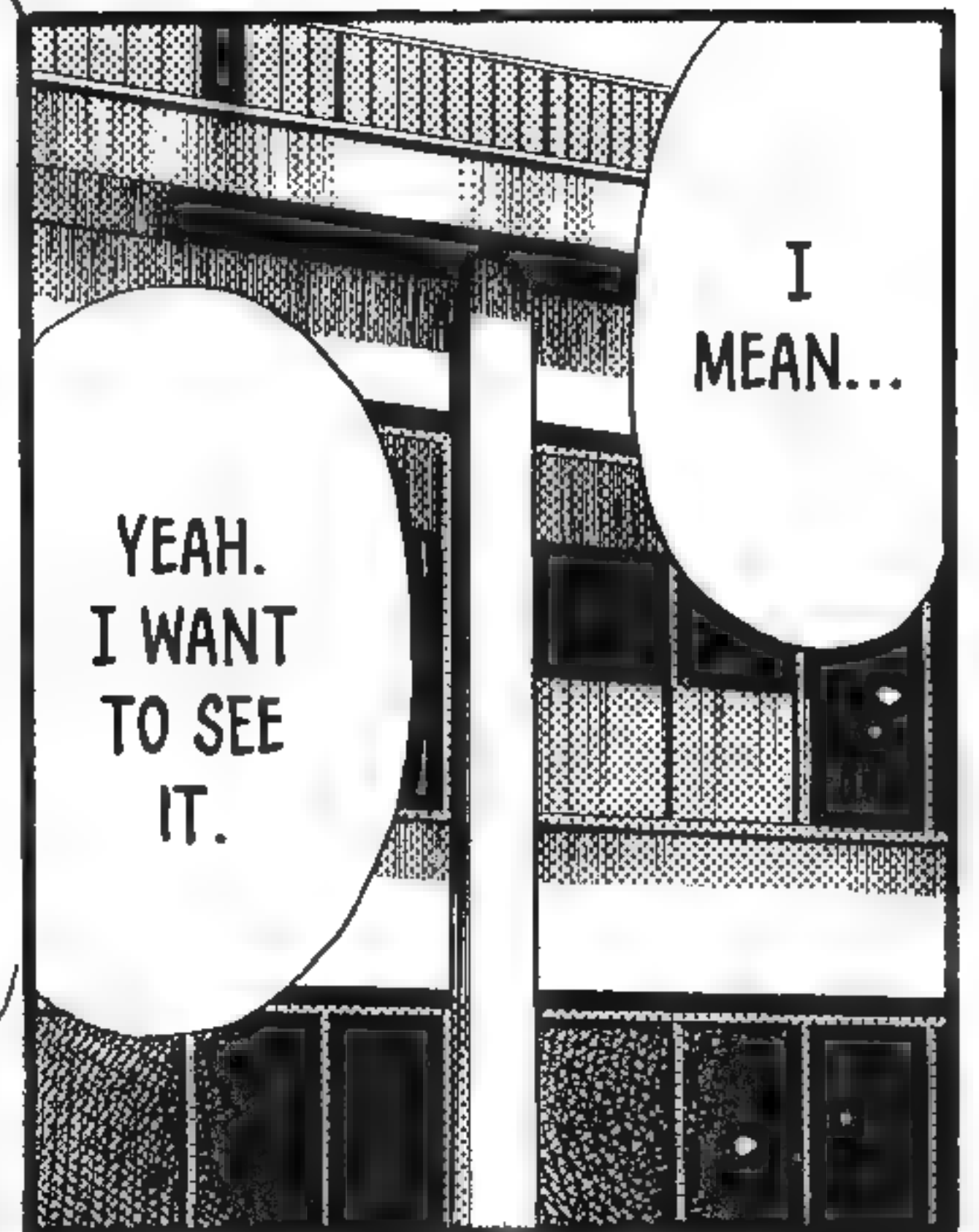
DROOP ぐんぐん





JUST  
A LITTLE  
SOMETHING  
TO LOOK  
FORWARD  
TO.

GREAT!  
YOU CAN LOOK  
AS MUCH AS  
YOU WANT...  
WHEN WE GO  
TO THE BEACH  
TOGETHER!



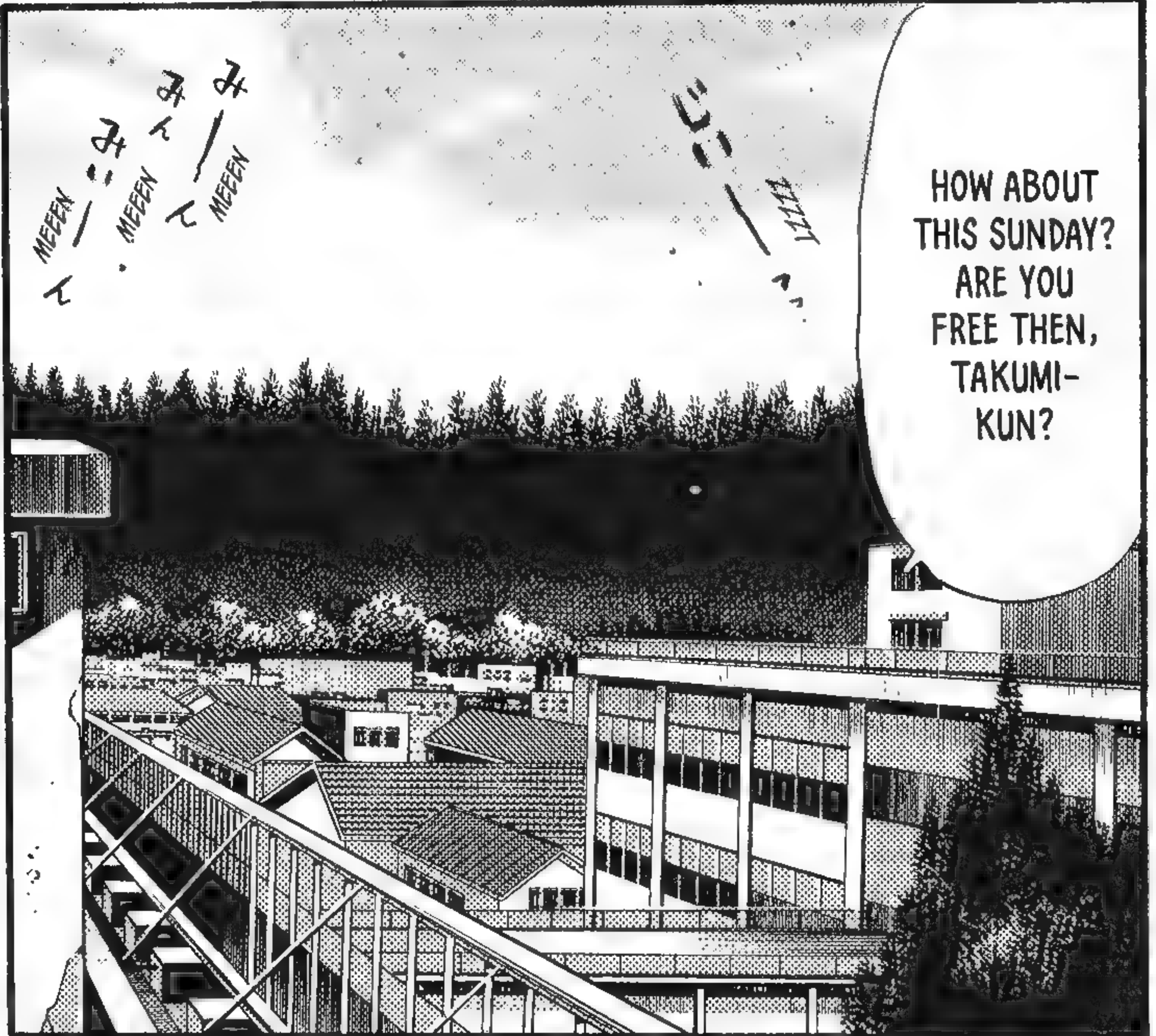
YEAH.  
I WANT  
TO SEE  
IT.

I  
MEAN...



YEAH,  
SURE. GOOD  
TIMING,  
I HAVE THE  
DAY OFF.

NEXT  
SUNDAY?



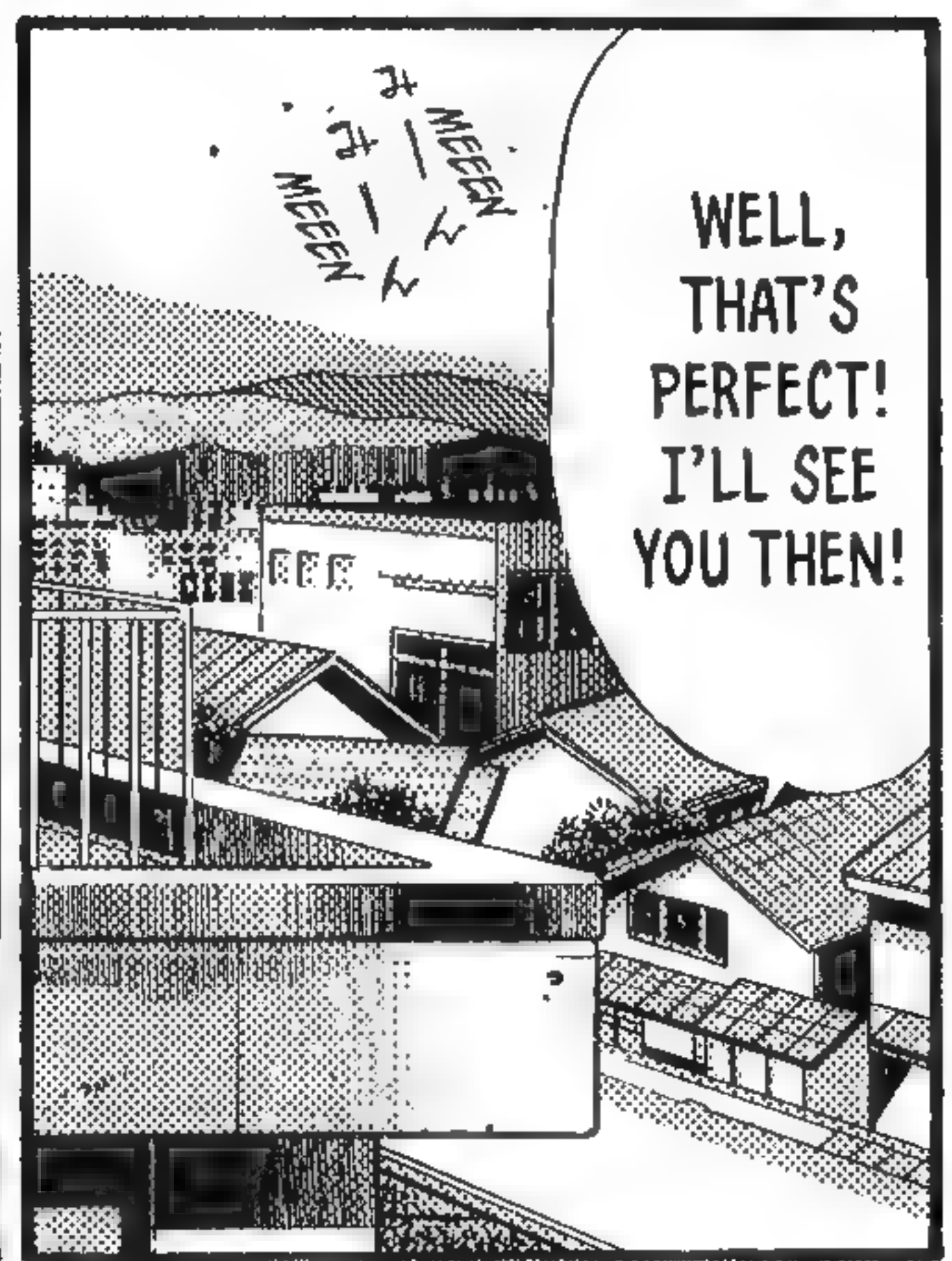
HOW ABOUT  
THIS SUNDAY?  
ARE YOU  
FREE THEN,  
TAKUMI-  
KUN?



'CAUSE  
THERE'S  
TWO THINGS  
I CAN'T  
STAND—  
SMOKERS,  
AND MEN WHO  
BREAK THEIR  
PROMISES!

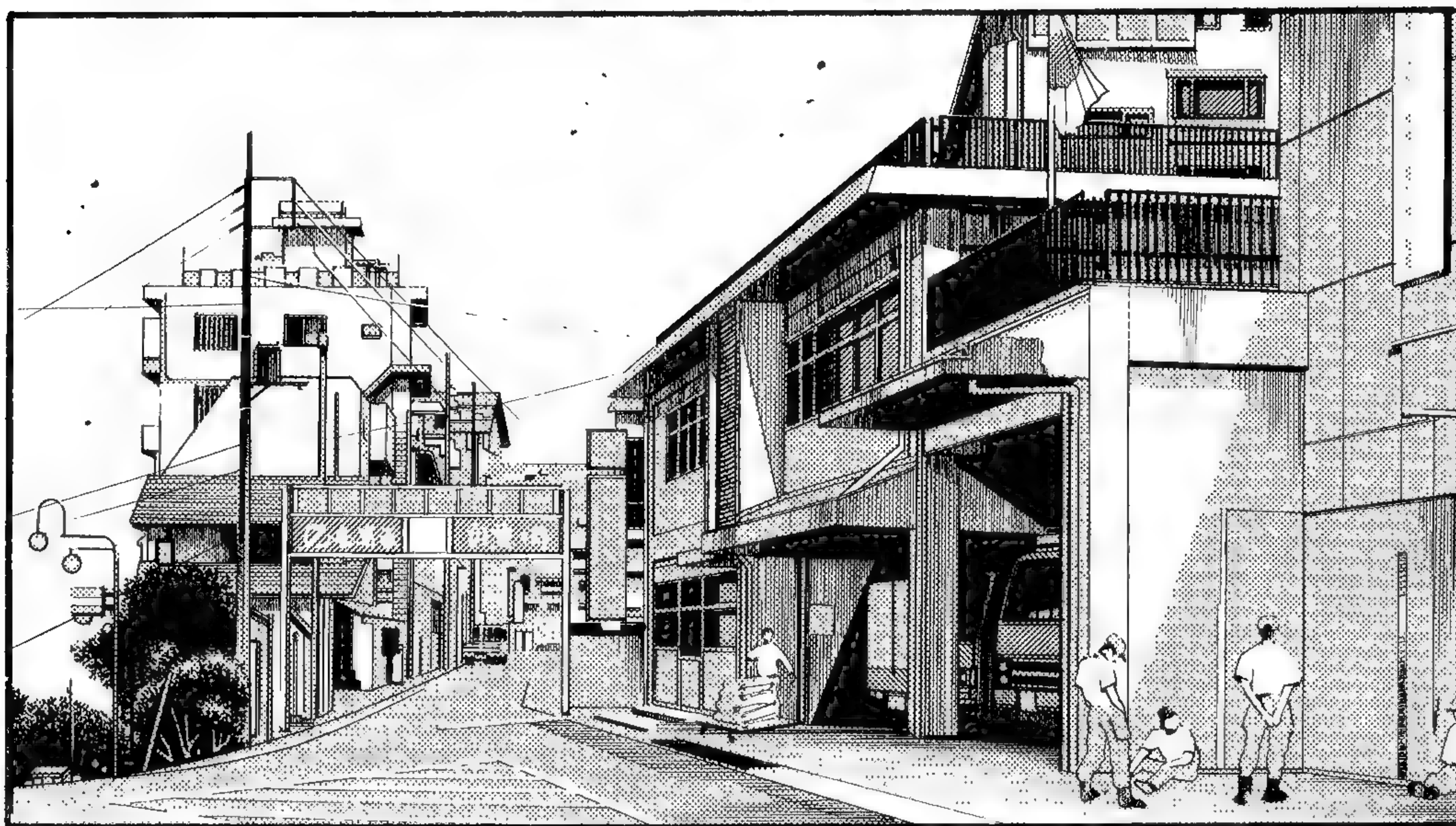
HEEHEE  
ボヘーツ

AND  
I KNOW  
YOU WON'T  
STAND  
ME UP,  
RIGHT?



WELL,  
THAT'S  
PERFECT!  
I'LL SEE  
YOU THEN!









QUICK  
ENOUGH TO  
LEAVE KEISUKE  
TAKAHASHI  
AND HIS FD3S  
GASPING!

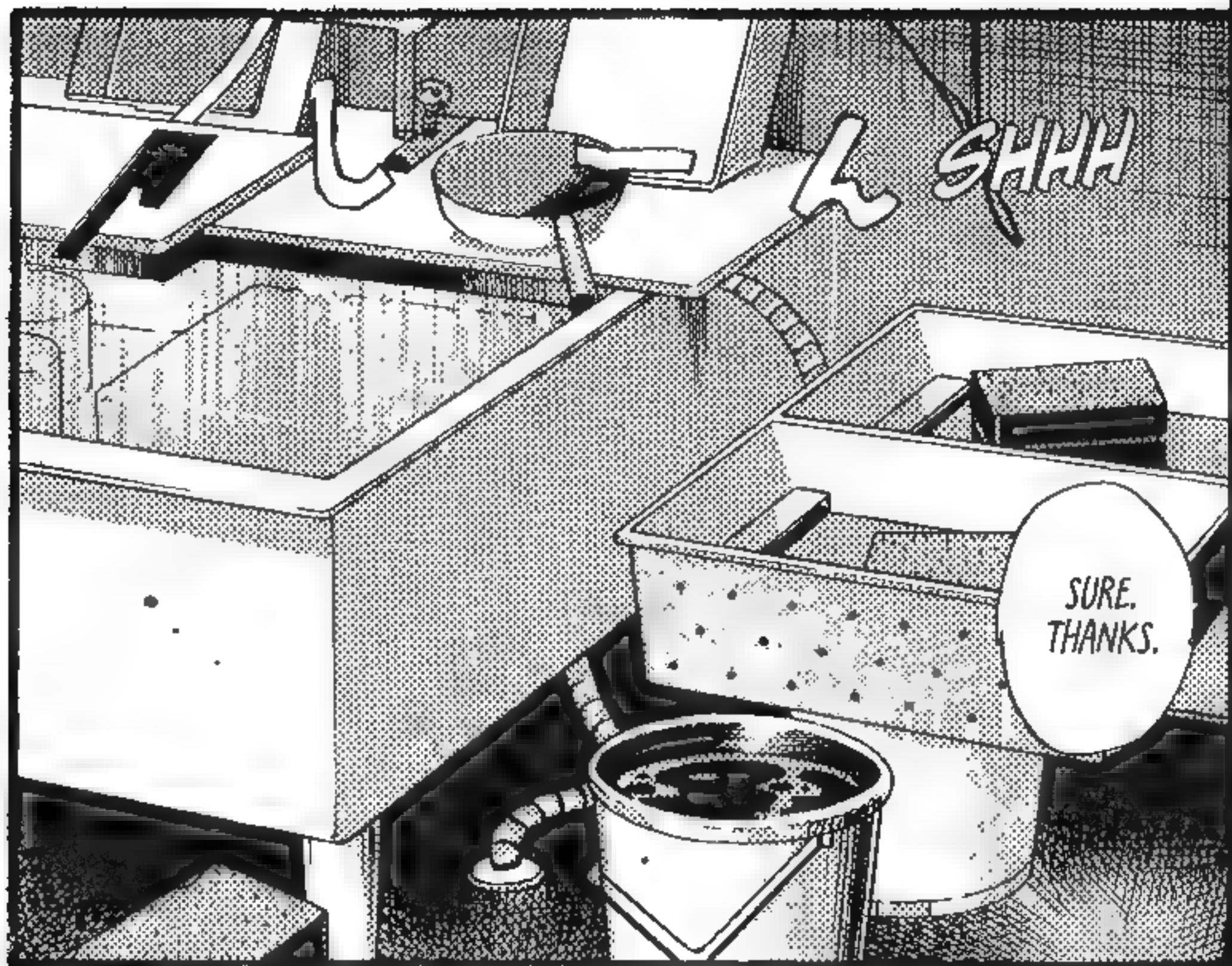
...



SO, HE'S THE  
DRIVER OF THAT  
EIGHT-SIX.  
THE FASTEST  
DOWNHILLER  
AROUND.

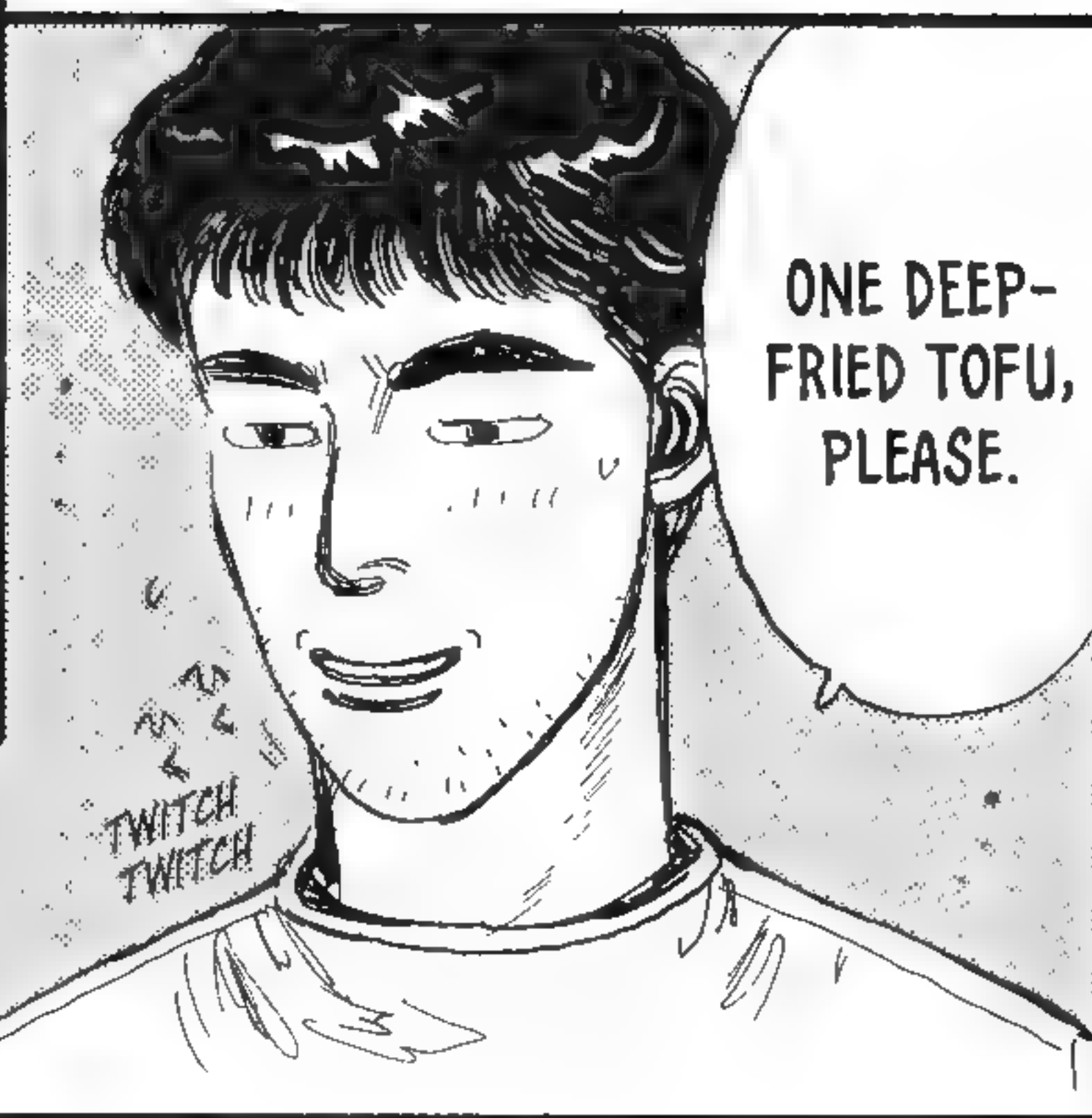






WHAT  
THE HELL  
AM I  
DOING?

I'M NOT  
HERE FOR  
TOFU!



I'M PART  
OF A STREET  
RACING TEAM  
CALLED  
THE AKINA  
SPEED  
STARS!



UH...  
ACTUALLY,  
SIR...  
MY NAME IS  
IKETANI.



MAYBE YOU'RE  
WONDERING WHAT  
KIND OF RUMOR  
IT WAS. WELL,  
UH, HE SAID...



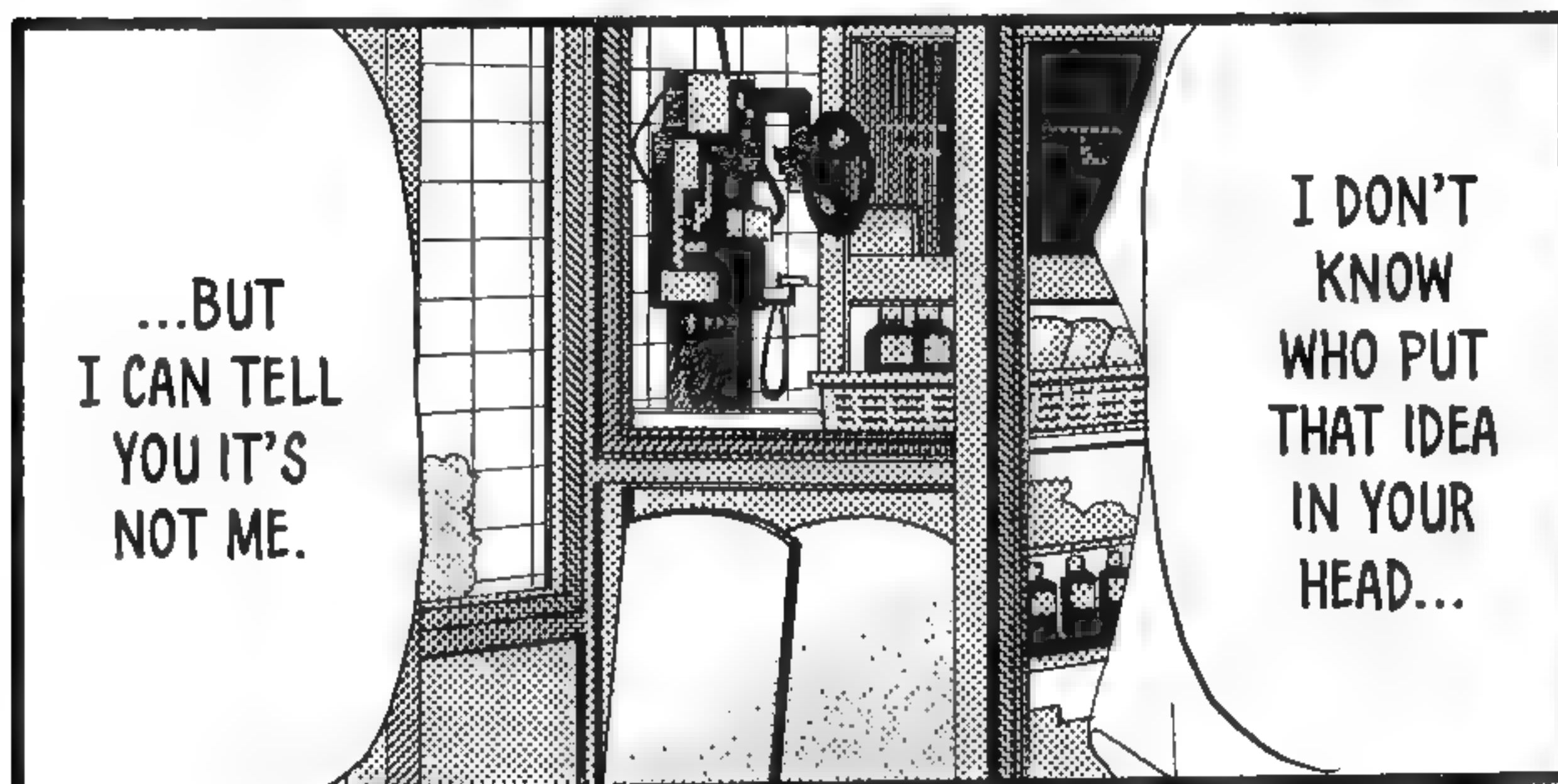
I,  
UH, HEARD  
A VERY  
STRANGE  
RUMOR THE  
OTHER DAY  
FROM...  
WELL,  
SOMEONE.







HE SAID THE  
FASTEST DOWN-  
HILL DRIVER  
ON AKINA WAS  
A GUY FROM  
A TOFU SHOP  
WHO DRIVES AN  
EIGHT-SIX!



...BUT  
I CAN TELL  
YOU IT'S  
NOT ME.

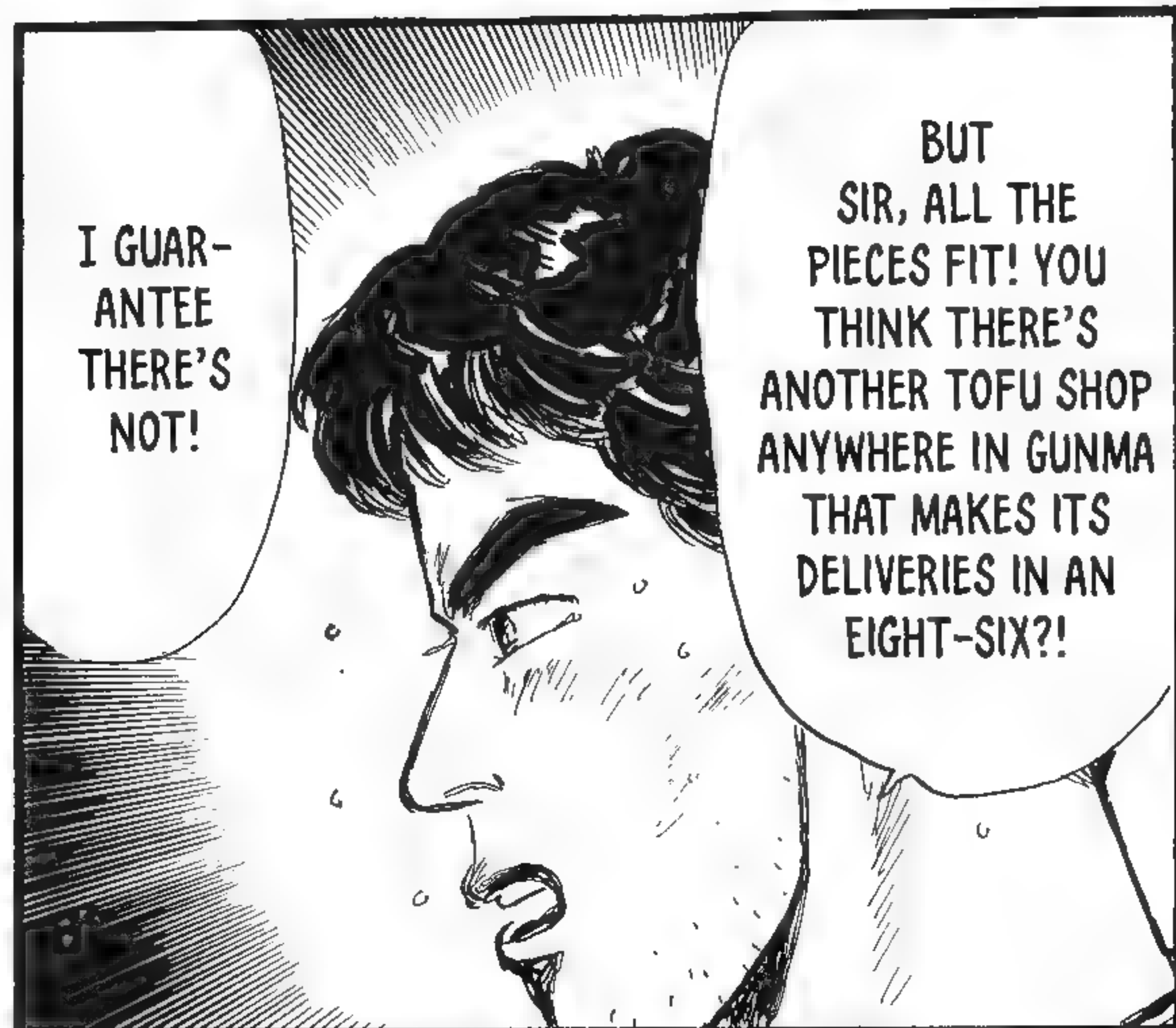
I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHO PUT  
THAT IDEA  
IN YOUR  
HEAD...



...



CALM  
DOWN,  
FRIEND.



I GUAR-  
ANTEE  
THERE'S  
NOT!

BUT  
SIR, ALL THE  
PIECES FIT! YOU  
THINK THERE'S  
ANOTHER TOFU SHOP  
ANYWHERE IN GUNMA  
THAT MAKES ITS  
DELIVERIES IN AN  
EIGHT-SIX?!



干  
ヤ  
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J  
A  
N  
G  
L  
E

NO... THAT'S  
NOT WHAT I'M  
HERE FOR.



DON'T TELL  
ME YOU'RE  
HERE WITH  
SOME COCKA-  
MAMIE SCHEME  
TO CHALLENGE  
ME SO YOU CAN  
BE "FASTEST."

LET ME  
ASK YOU  
SOMETHING.  
WHAT IF IT  
WAS ME?

140 YEN,  
PLEASE.

SHIT

\*Note: Around USD \$1.40



I DON'T  
KNOW.  
I'VE  
GOT A  
BUSINESS  
TO RUN,  
HERE...



DO YOU  
HAVE A FEW  
MINUTES?

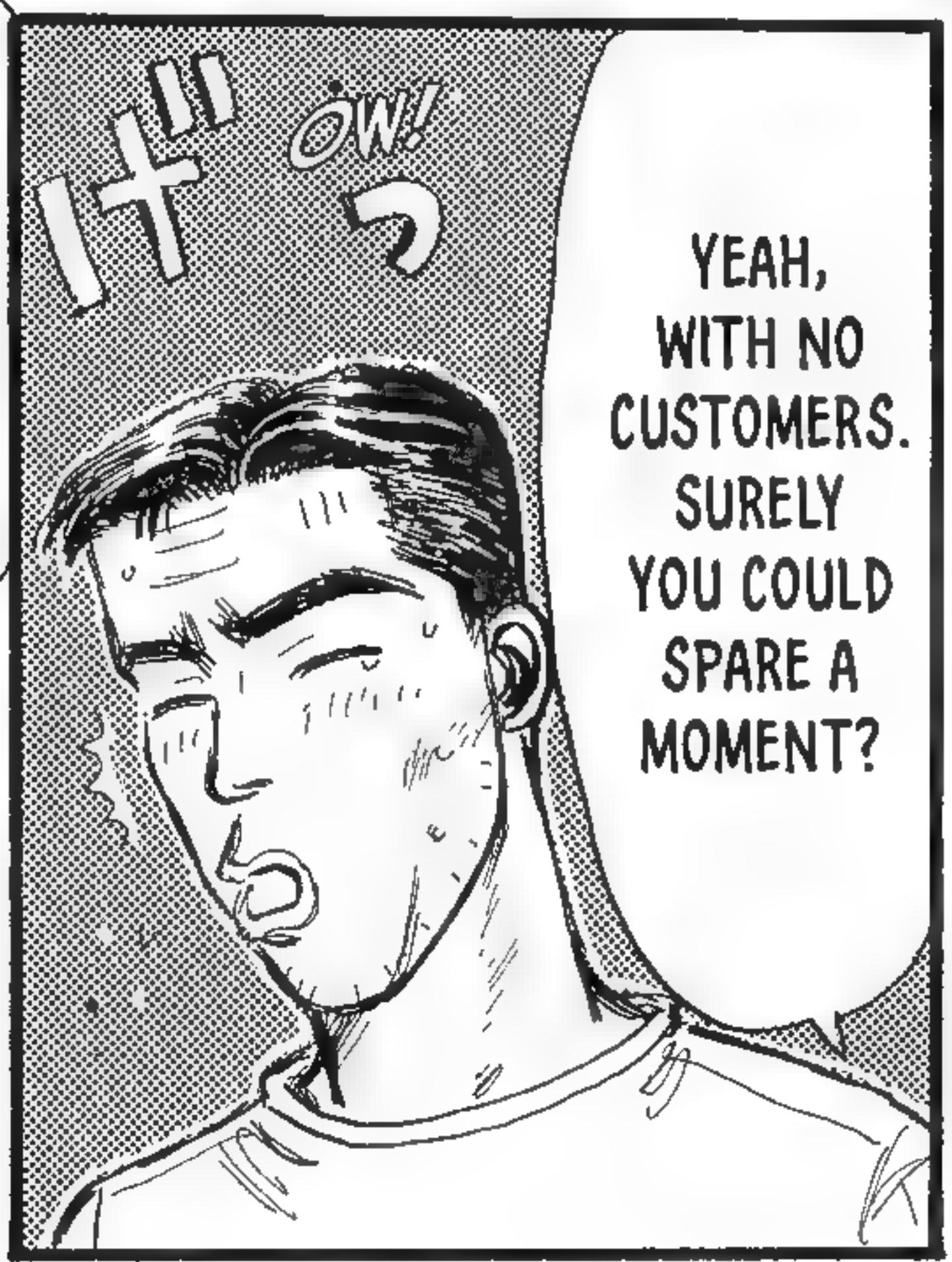
I WANT...  
WELL, IT'S  
COMPLICATED.

BUT I'M  
DESPERATE.

SORRY,  
SIR.

MOST  
PEOPLE  
WOULD  
HAVE MORE  
DECORUM.

THAT  
HURTS,  
YOU  
KNOW.



IT  
OW!

YEAH,  
WITH NO  
CUSTOMERS.  
SURELY  
YOU COULD  
SPARE A  
MOMENT?







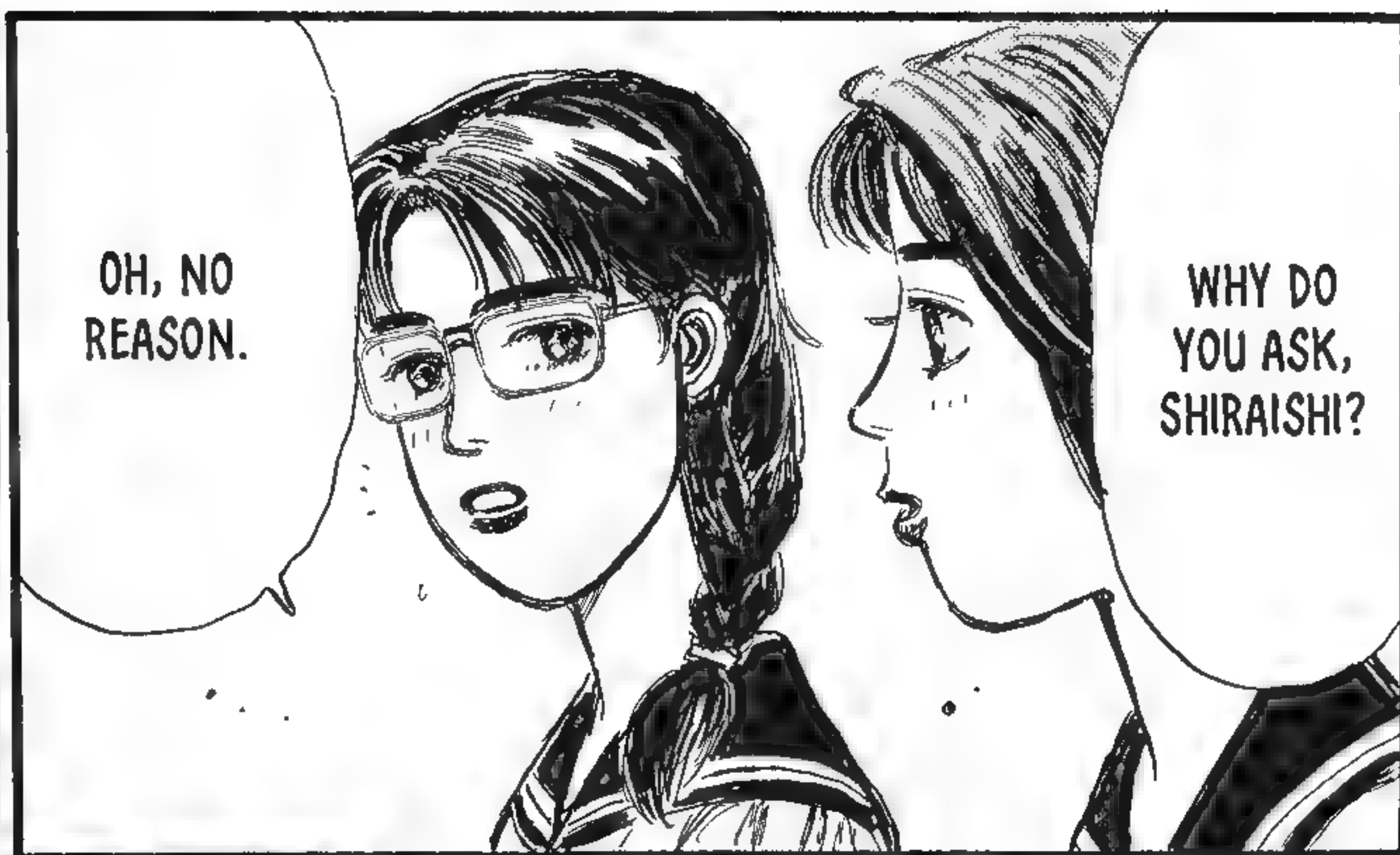








I  
JUST DON'T  
REALLY GET  
FUJIWARA-  
KUN.



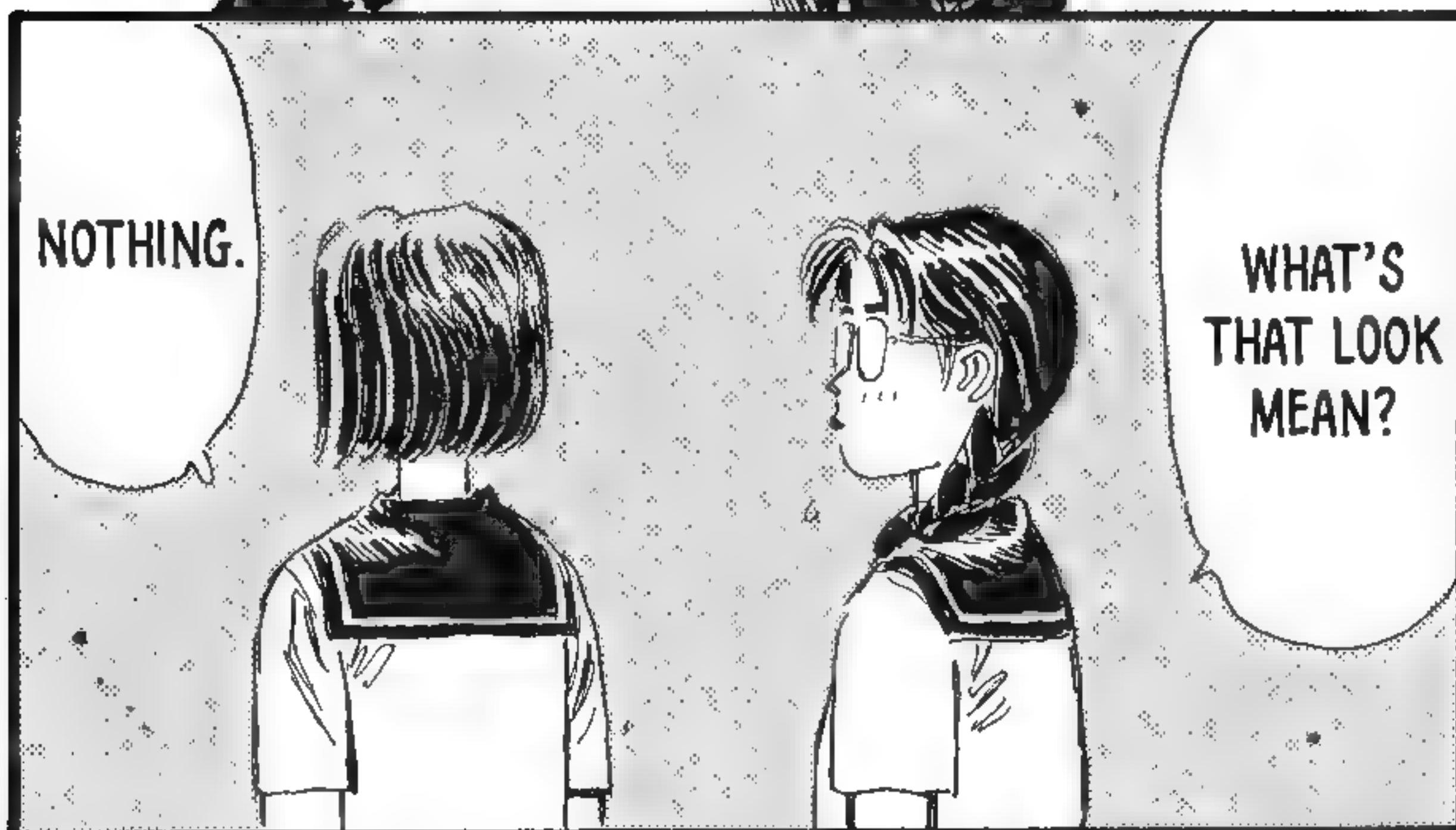
OH, NO  
REASON.

WHY DO  
YOU ASK,  
SHIRAISHI?



HE'S CUTE,  
BUT I'VE NEVER  
HEARD SO MUCH  
AS A RUMOR  
ABOUT HIM  
GOING OUT WITH  
A GIRL...

HE ALWAYS  
SEEMS ZONED  
OUT. LIKE,  
I WOULDN'T  
KNOW HOW TO  
TALK TO HIM.



NOTHING.

WHAT'S  
THAT LOOK  
MEAN?



OH?

THAT'S WHAT I GET  
FOR PROMISING TO  
GO TO THE BEACH  
WITH HER.



SHE'S  
REAL  
CUTE,  
THOUGH.

I NEVER  
SEEM TO  
KNOW  
WHAT SHE'S  
THINKING.

I CAN'T GET  
MOGI OFF MY  
MIND LATELY.



Takumi's  
wild  
imagina-  
tion

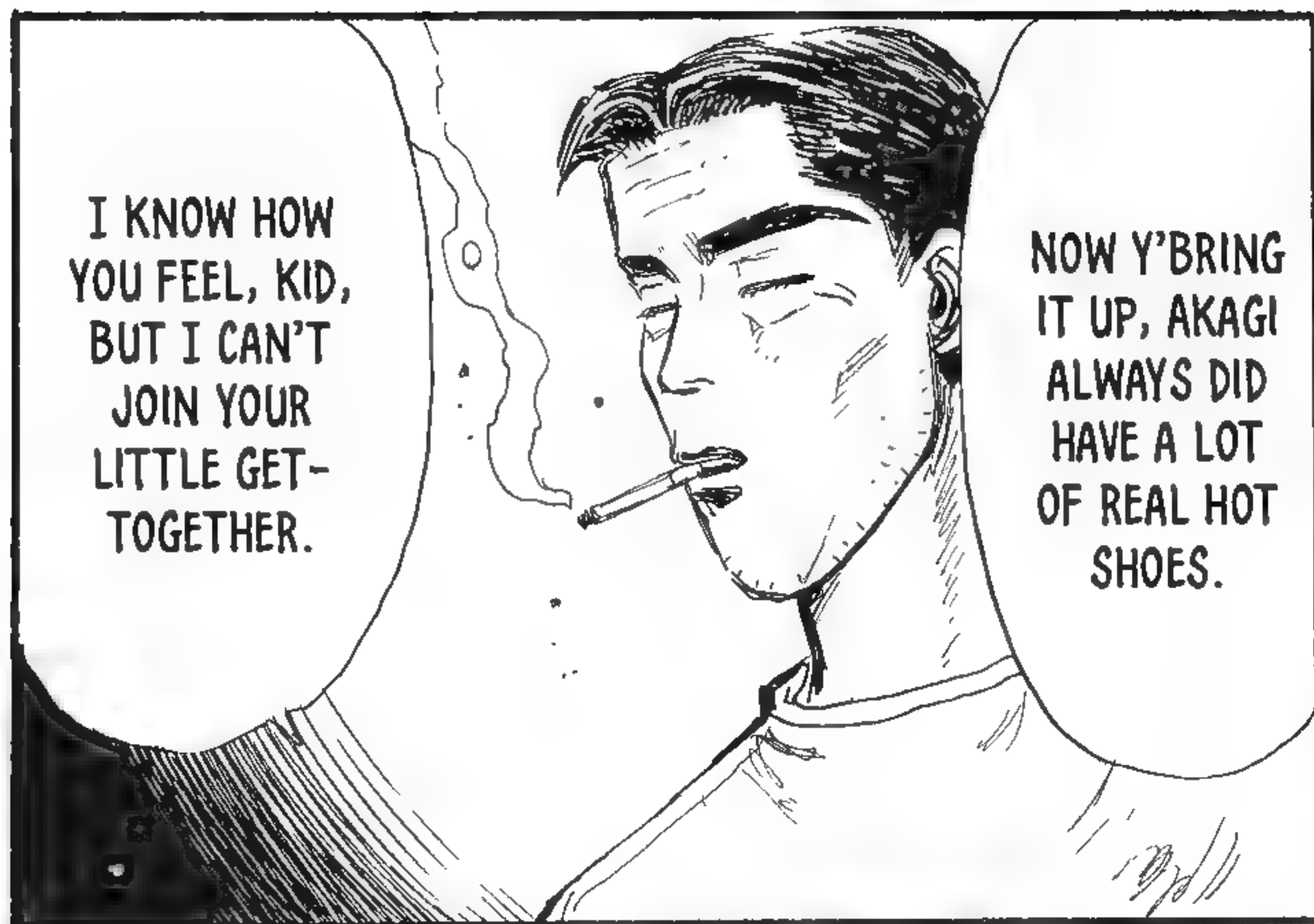
MOGI WAS  
GOING OUT WITH  
THAT PLAYBOY,  
MIKI-SENPAI.

THEY MUST  
HAVE BEEN  
DOING IT ALL  
THE TIME. IT  
BURNS ME  
UP...

I'M NOT ENOUGH  
OF A JERK TO  
GET HUNG UP ON  
SOME GUY SHE  
USED TO DATE...  
AM I?

BUT  
THAT'S  
IN THE  
PAST.



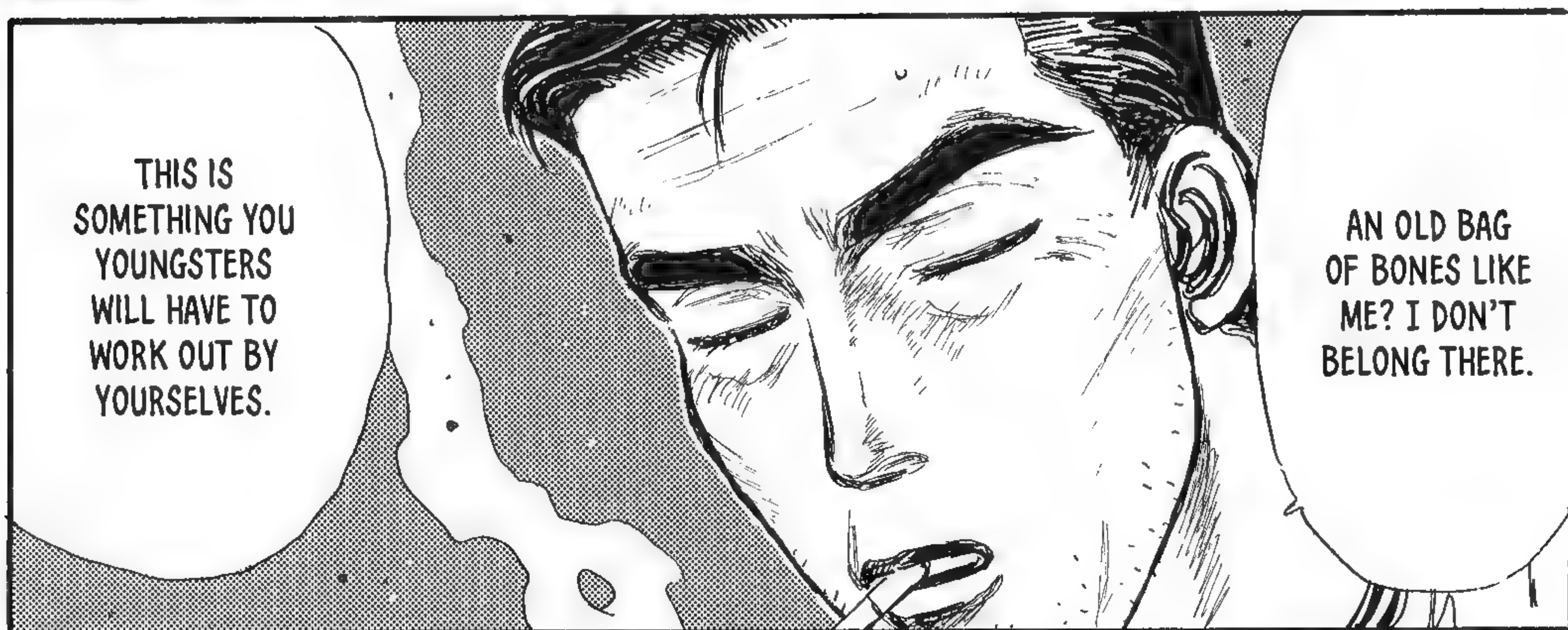


I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, KID, BUT I CAN'T JOIN YOUR LITTLE GET-TOGETHER.

NOW Y'BRING IT UP, AKAGI ALWAYS DID HAVE A LOT OF REAL HOT SHOES.



SO THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON.



THIS IS SOMETHING YOU YOUNGSTERS WILL HAVE TO WORK OUT BY YOURSELVES.

AN OLD BAG OF BONES LIKE ME? I DON'T BELONG THERE.



I'VE GOT A LOT OF STUFF HERE IN THIS SHOP...

...

...BUT THAT'S ONE ORDER I CAN'T FILL.



COULD YOU AT LEAST TEACH ME THE SECRETS OF RUNNING AKINA'S DOWNHILL?

ALL RIGHT... BUT PLEASE...



THERE'S  
JUST ONE  
WAY TO  
LEARN TO  
MAKE THE  
CAR DO WHAT  
YOU WANT.

REAL  
FINESSE ISN'T  
SOMETHING  
YOU PICK UP  
IN A COUPLE  
OF DAYS.

BACK  
WHEN I WAS  
AN ACTIVE  
RACER, I WAS  
RUNNING  
AKINA IN MY  
DREAMS!

YOU GOTTA  
THINK LONG  
AND HARD  
ABOUT IT...  
AND THEN  
YOU GOTTA  
DRIVE.

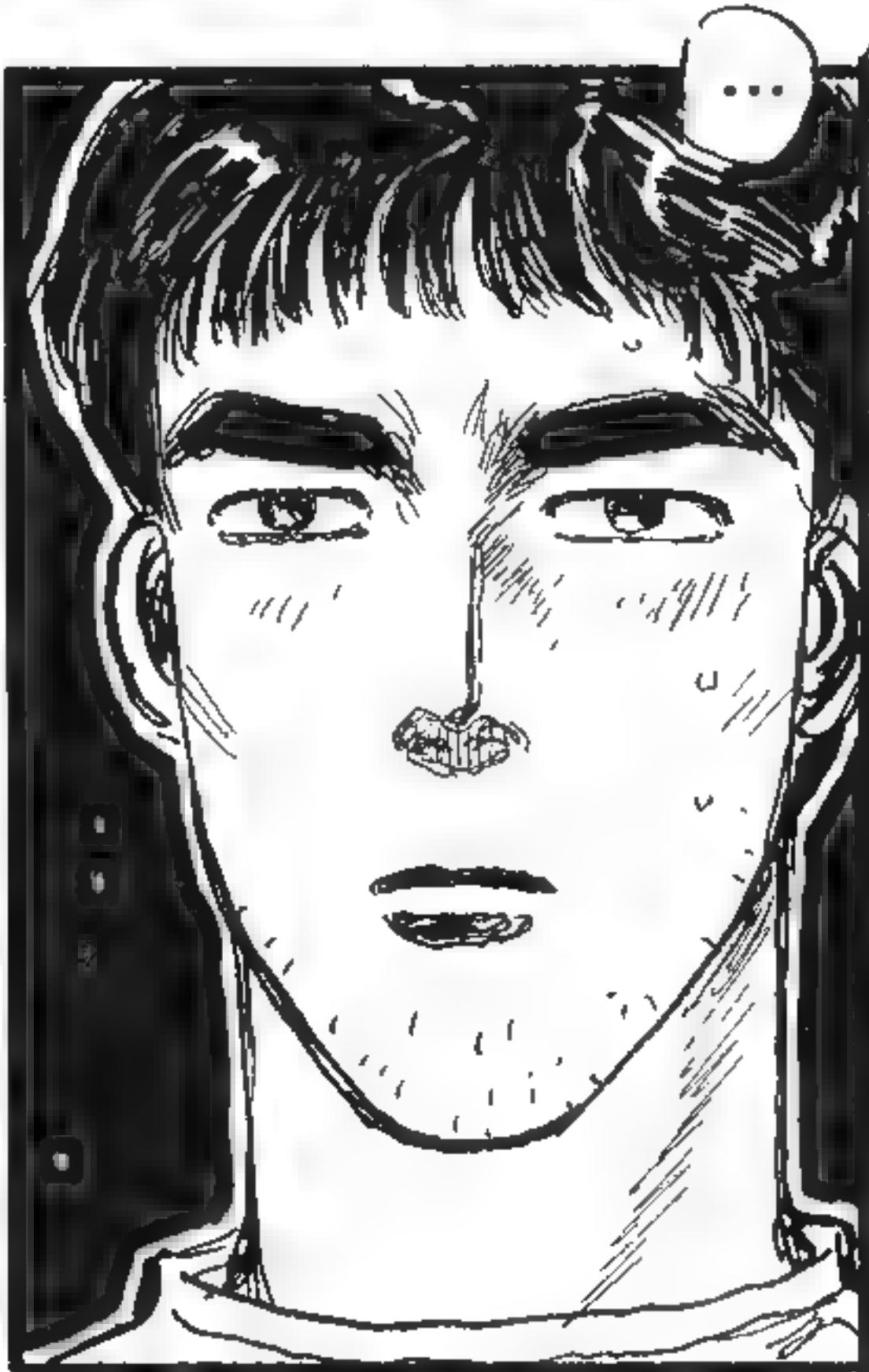
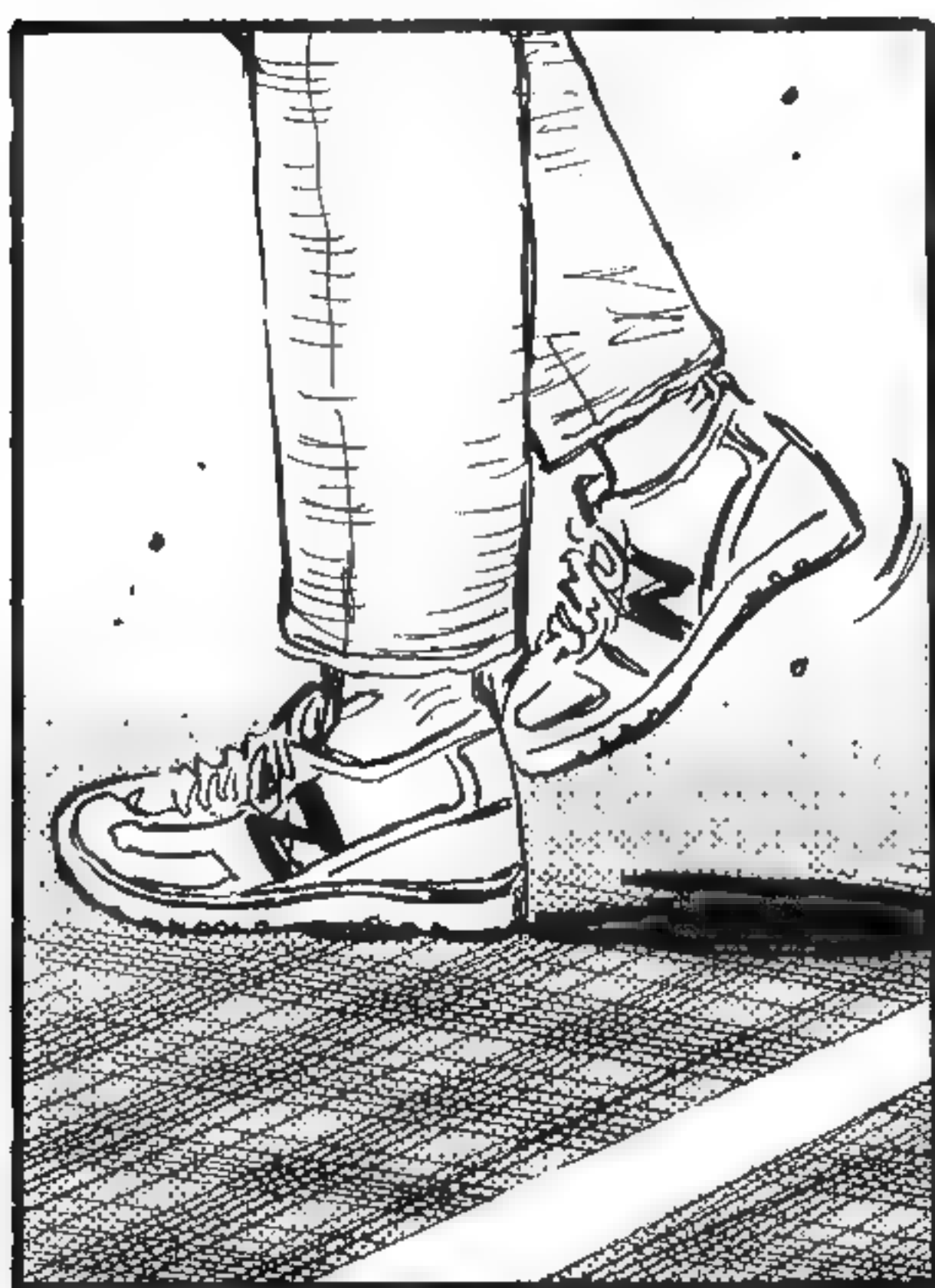
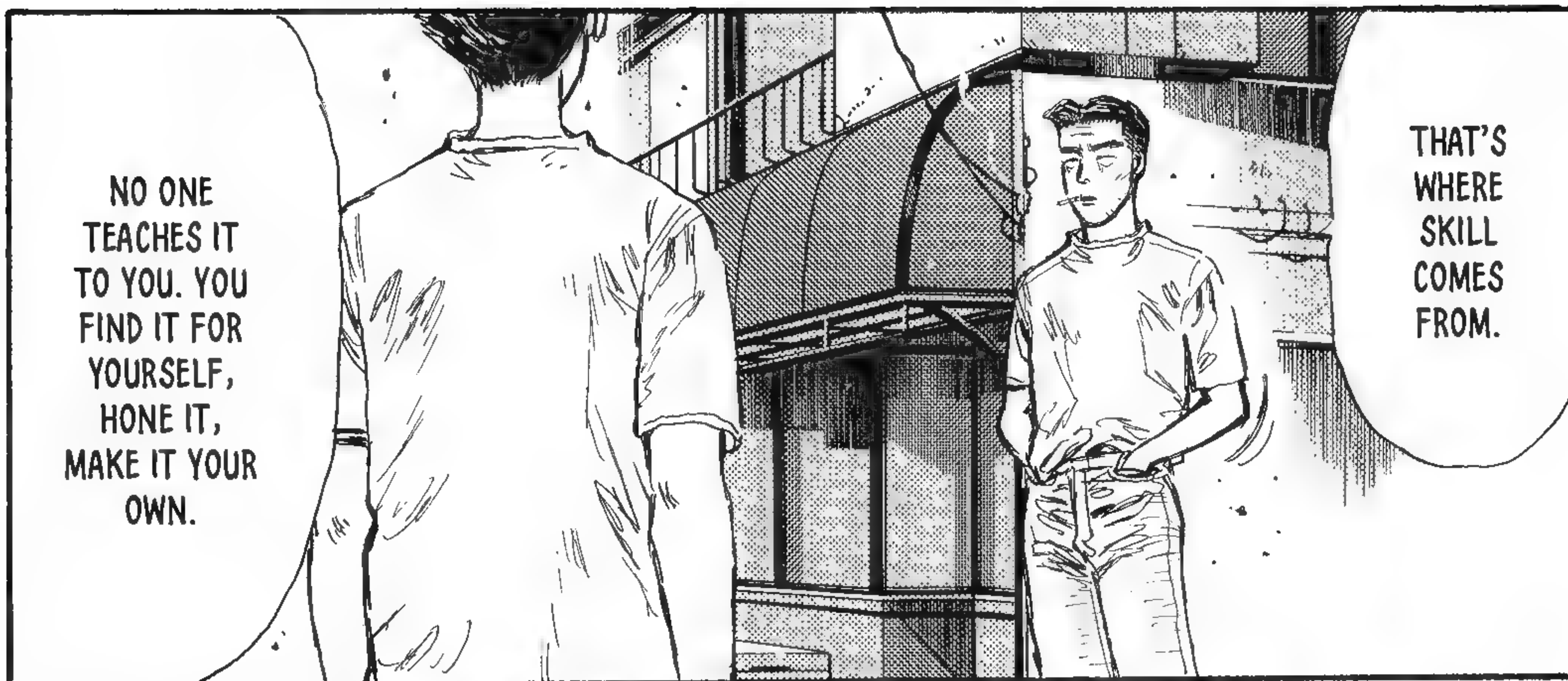
NINE  
OUT OF  
TEN TIMES,  
IT WAS A  
BUST. BUT  
THAT DIDN'T  
STOP ME. I  
JUST KEPT  
RUNNING.

I TRIED  
STUNTS NO  
ONE IN THEIR  
RIGHT MIND  
WOULD DO.

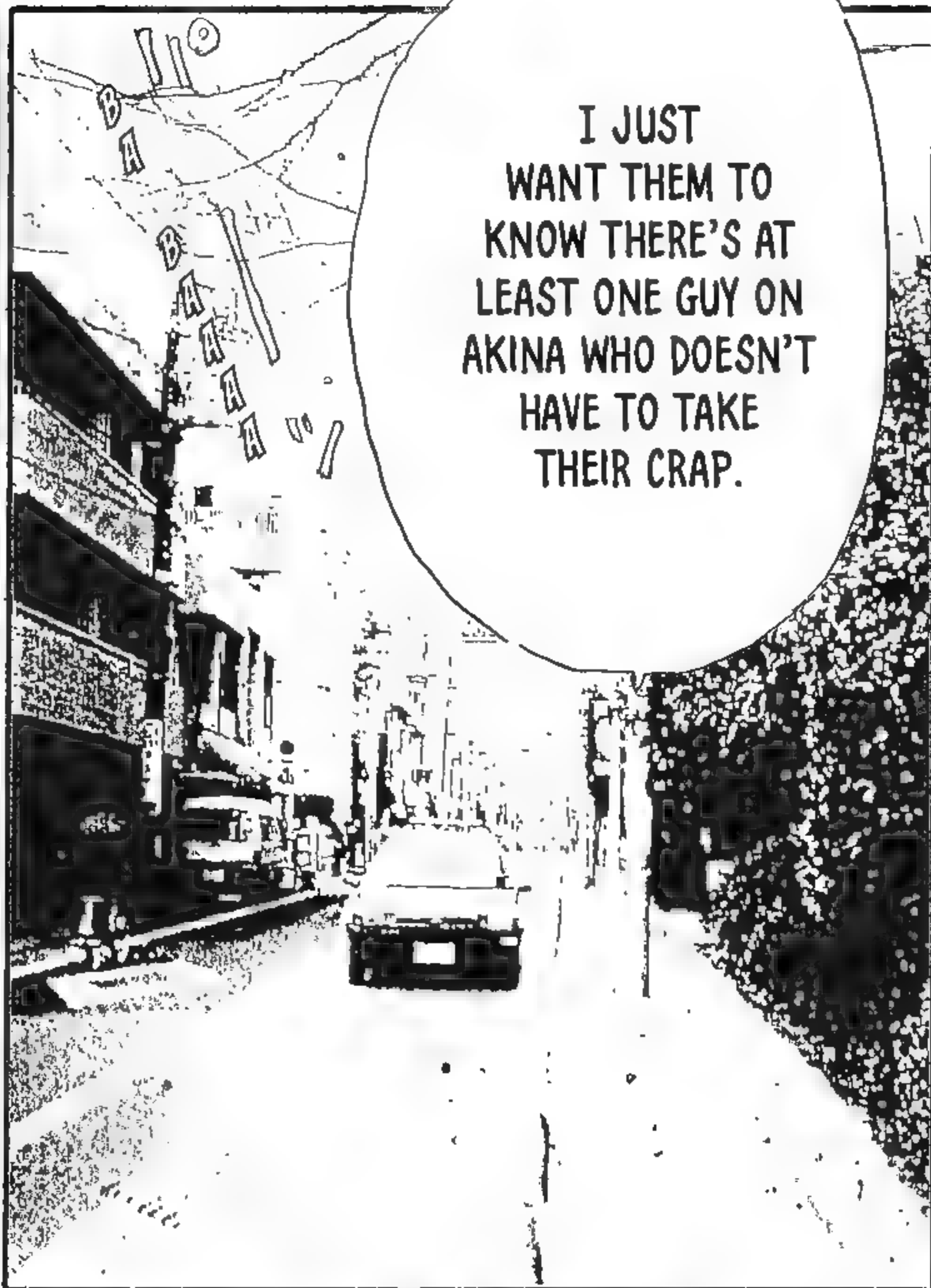
IF I HAD AN  
IDEA FOR A NEW  
APPROACH IN  
THE MIDDLE OF  
THE NIGHT, I'D  
BE OUT OF BED  
AND ON THE  
MOUNTAIN IN NO  
TIME FLAT TO  
TEST IT OUT.

AWAKE,  
ASLEEP,  
RACING WAS  
THE ONLY  
THING ON MY  
MIND.









I JUST WANT THEM TO KNOW THERE'S AT LEAST ONE GUY ON AKINA WHO DOESN'T HAVE TO TAKE THEIR CRAP.



BECAUSE YOU ALREADY DID IT ONCE. BEAT THE TAKAHASHI BROTHERS. THE FASTEST GUYS ON AKAGI.

I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT...

THAT REALLY WASN'T ME.

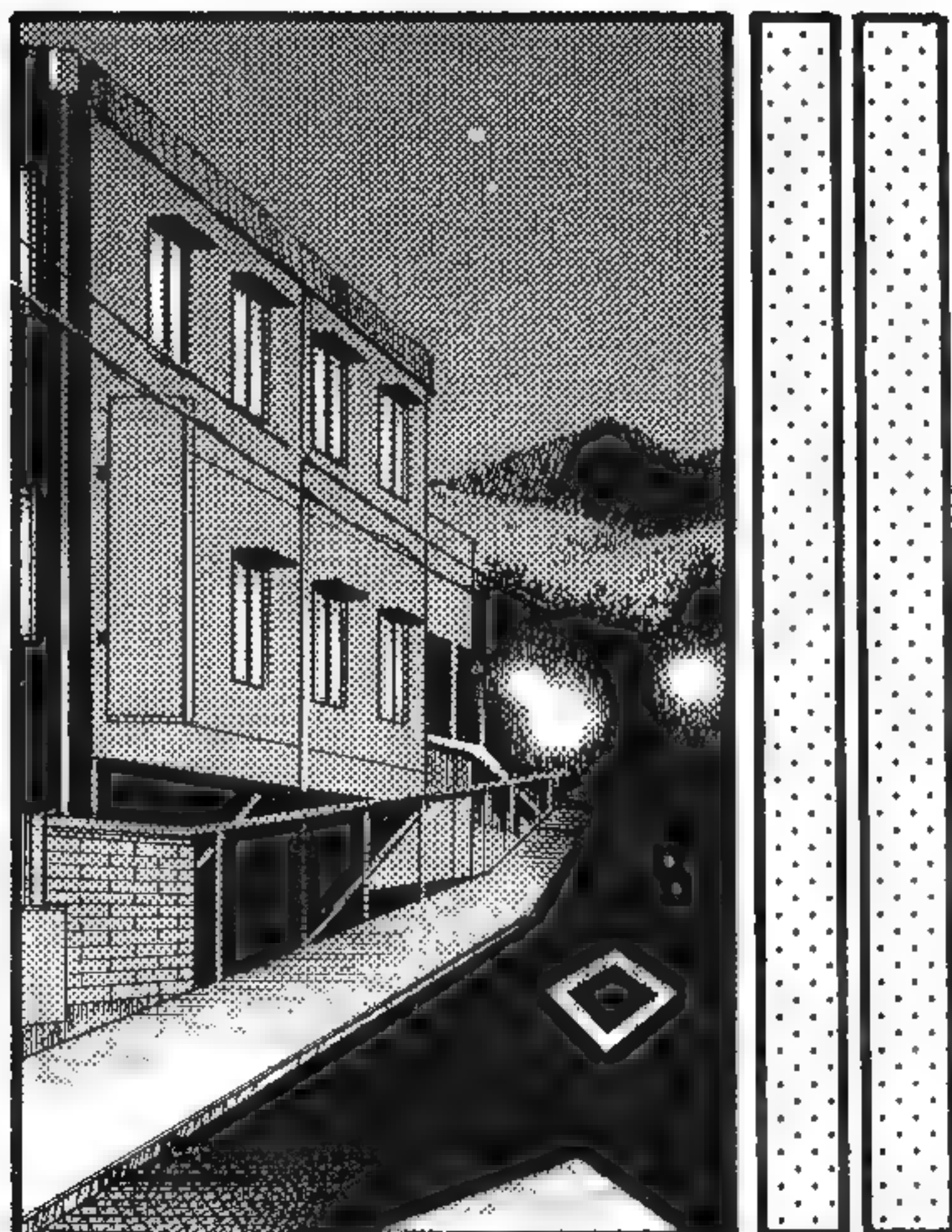
HOO, BOY...



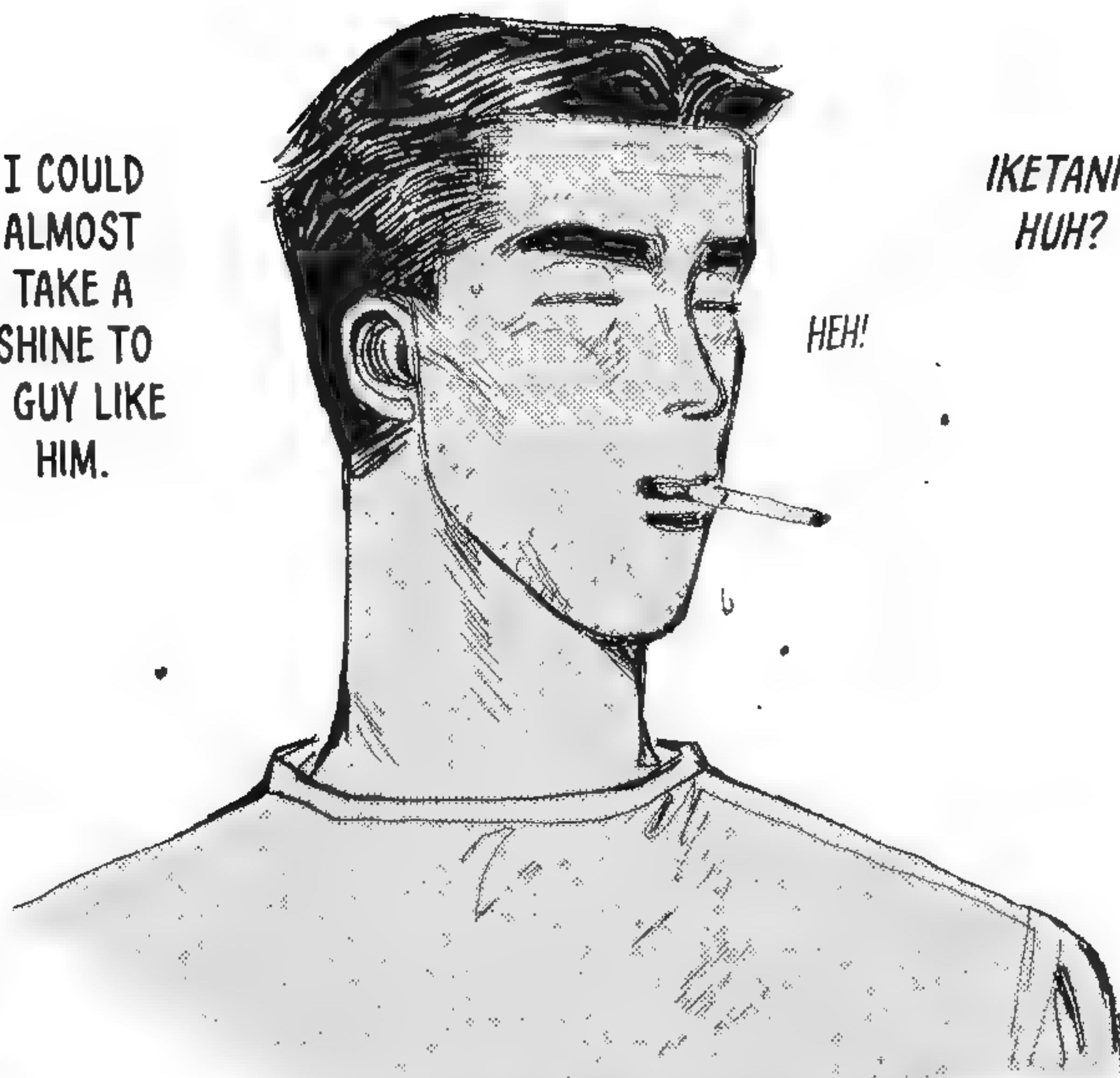
GA

VRROOM





I COULD  
ALMOST  
TAKE A  
SHINE TO  
A GUY LIKE  
HIM.



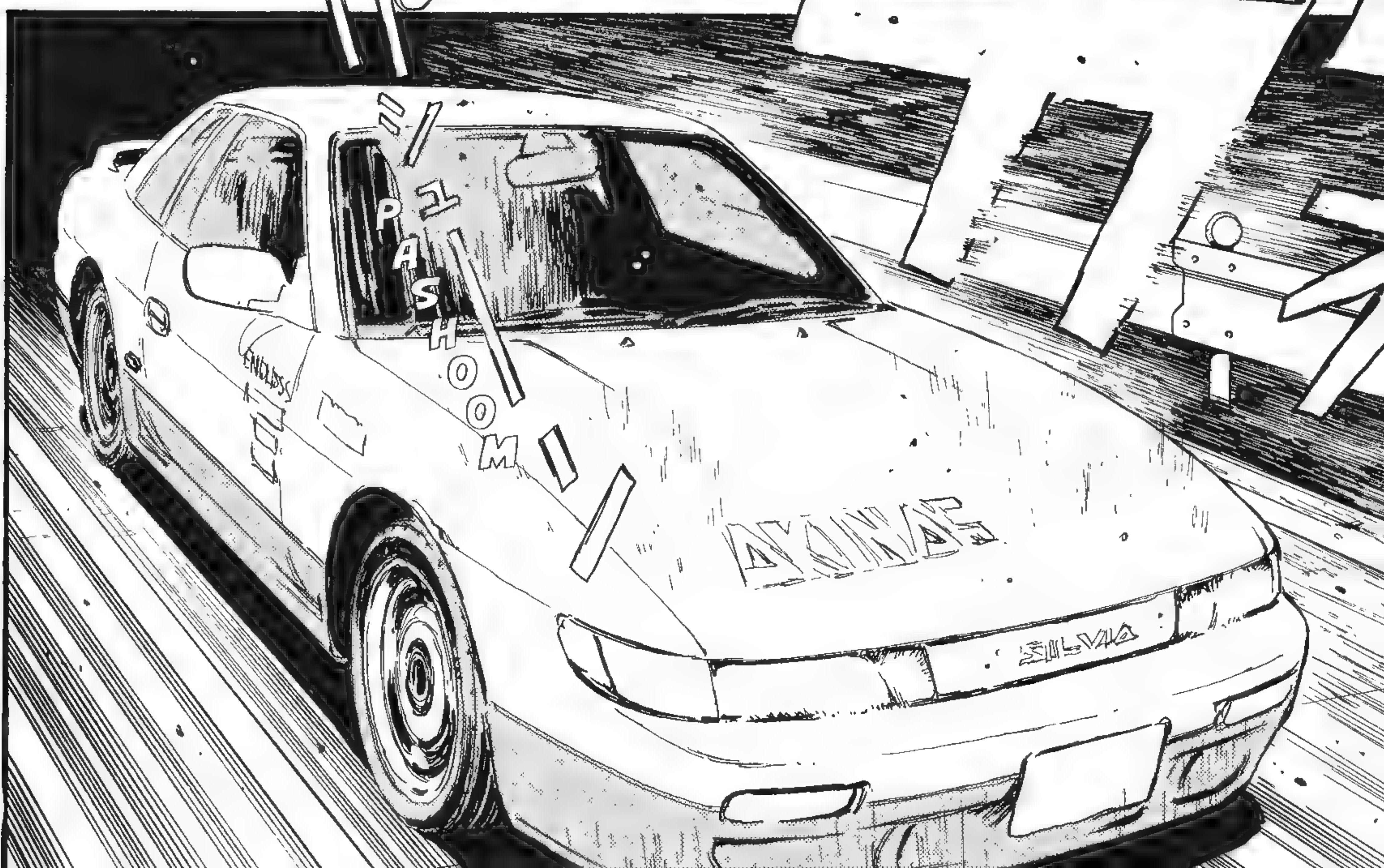
IKETANI,  
HUH?

HEH!



On  
Mount  
Akina...

HOWL

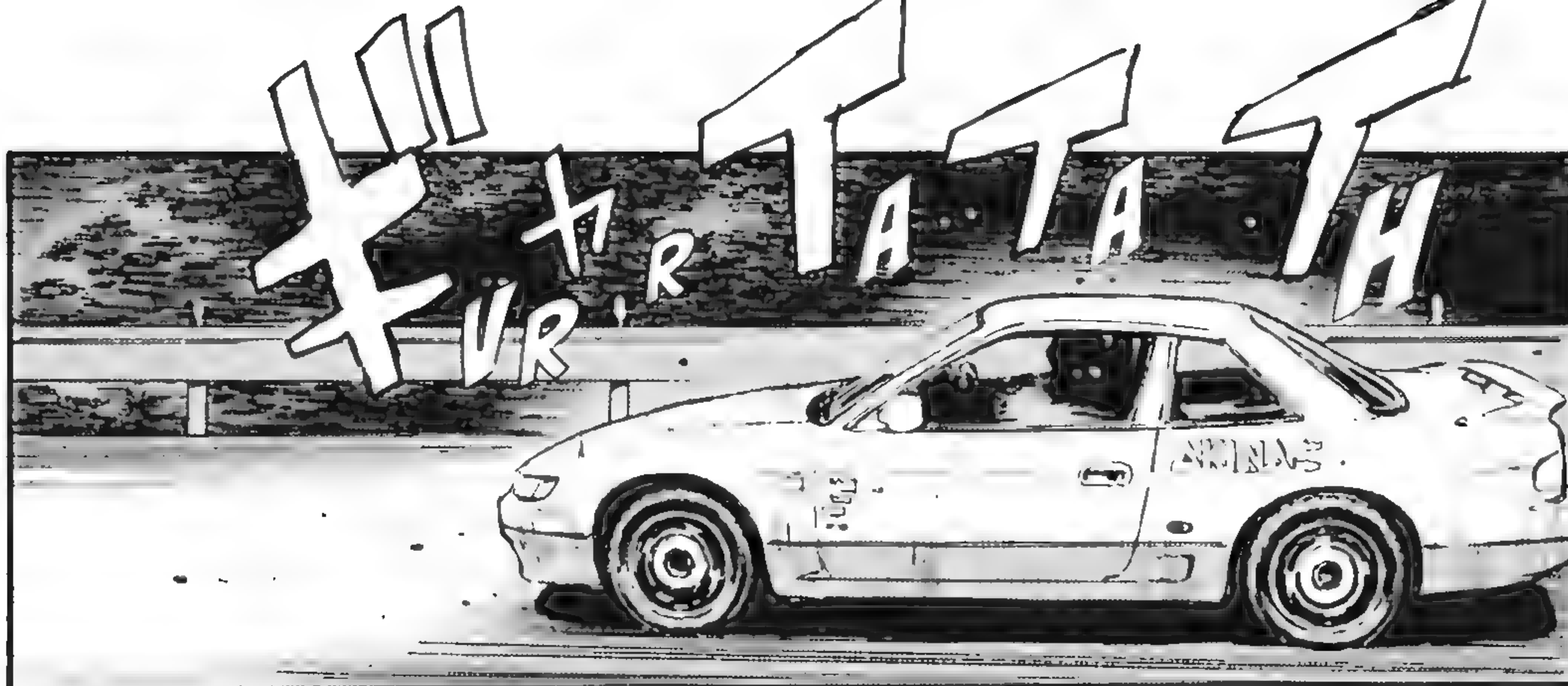


PASH  
HOOOM

AVANZA

SILVERA









SHIT!  
SHOULD'VE  
SEEN 'EM  
SOONER!

ONCOMING  
HEAD-  
LIGHTS?!





▶ *Ch. 7: Iketani's Humiliating Crash!*



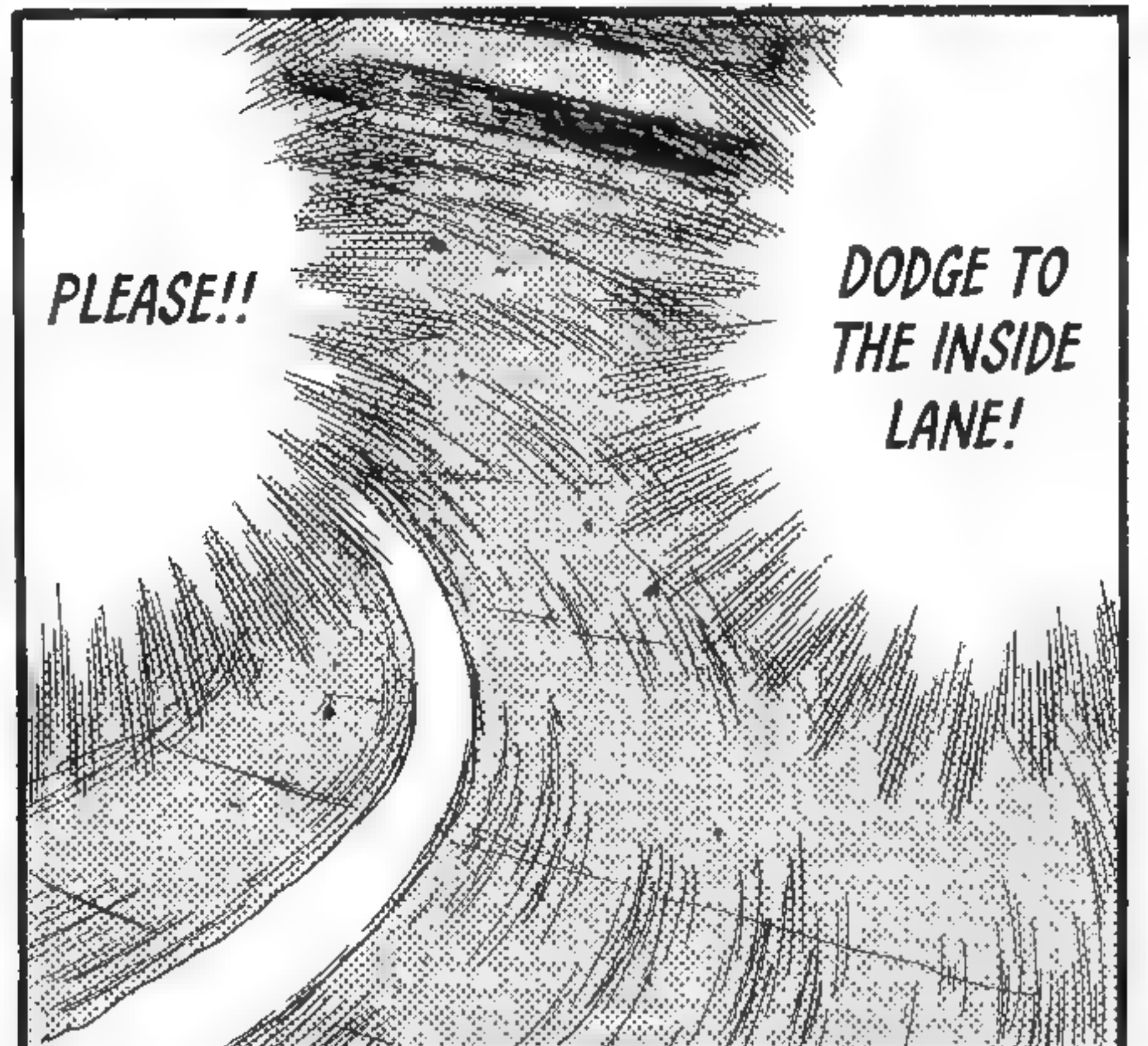




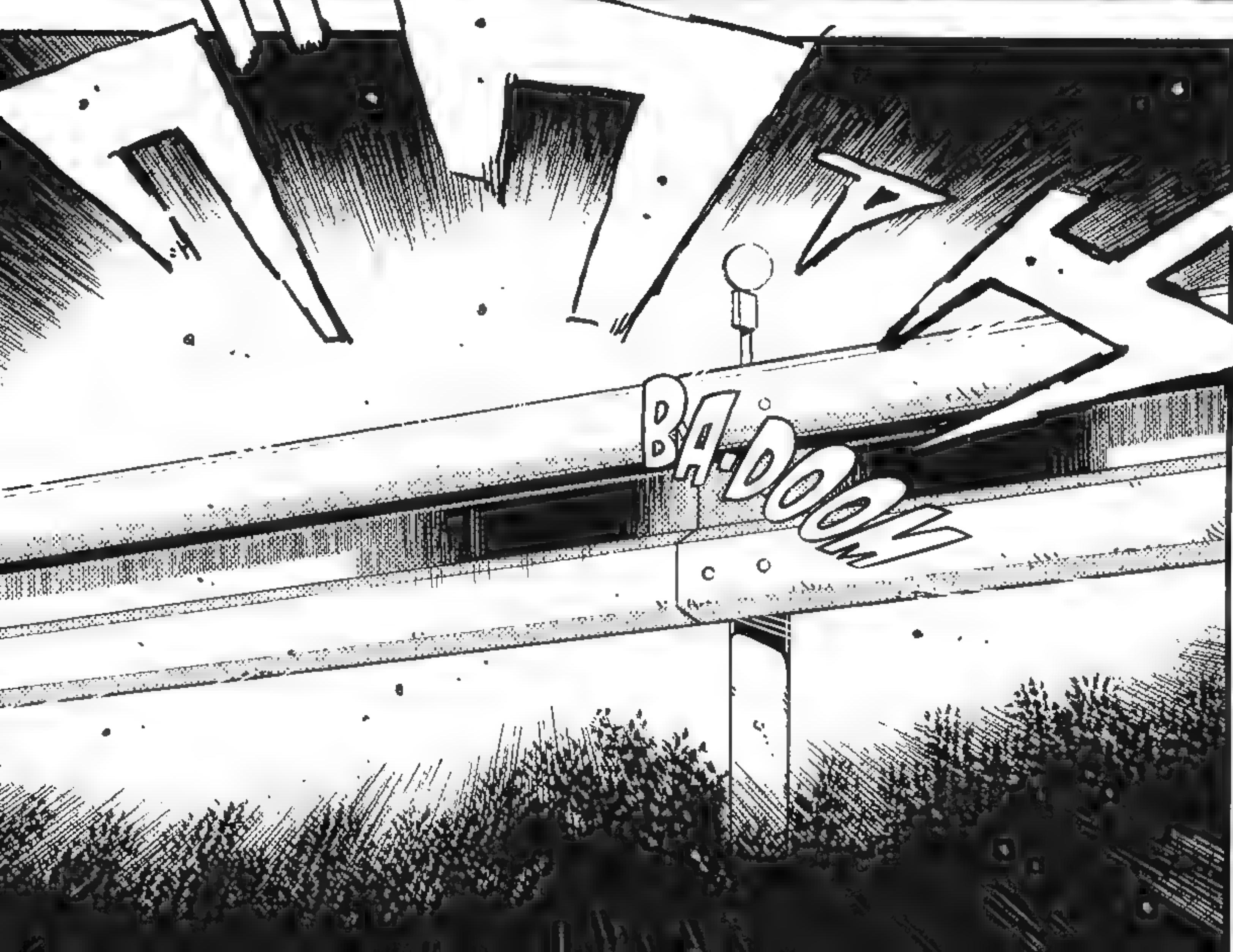
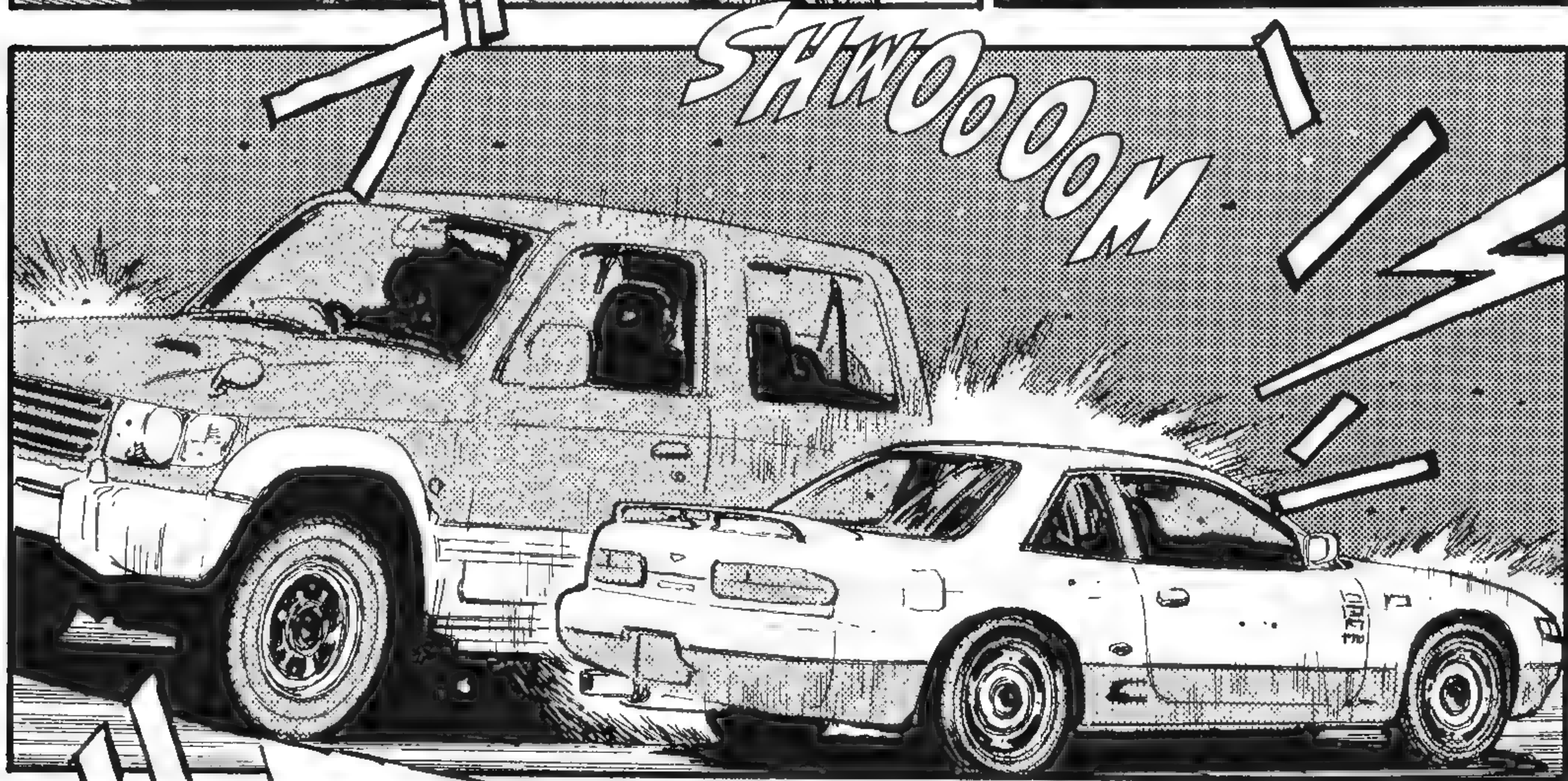




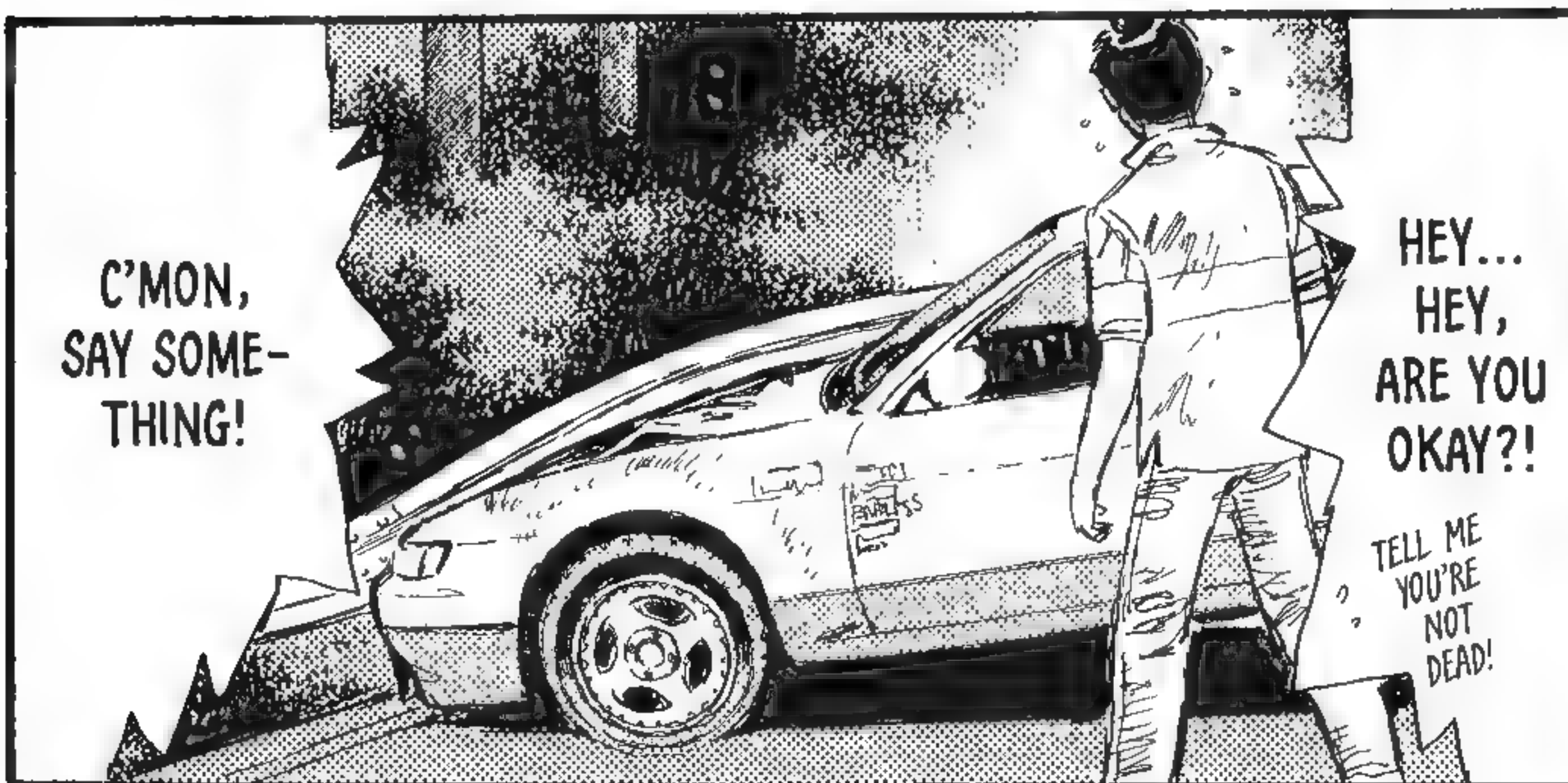
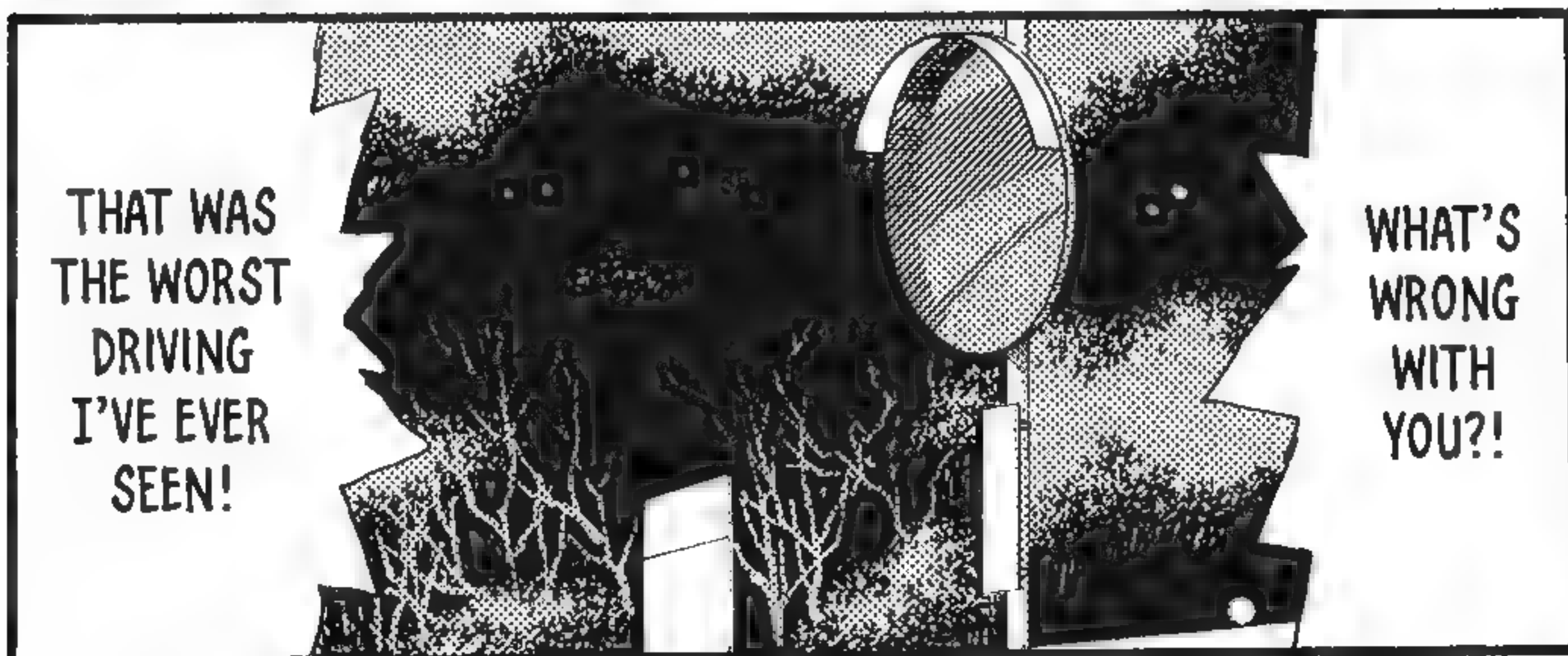




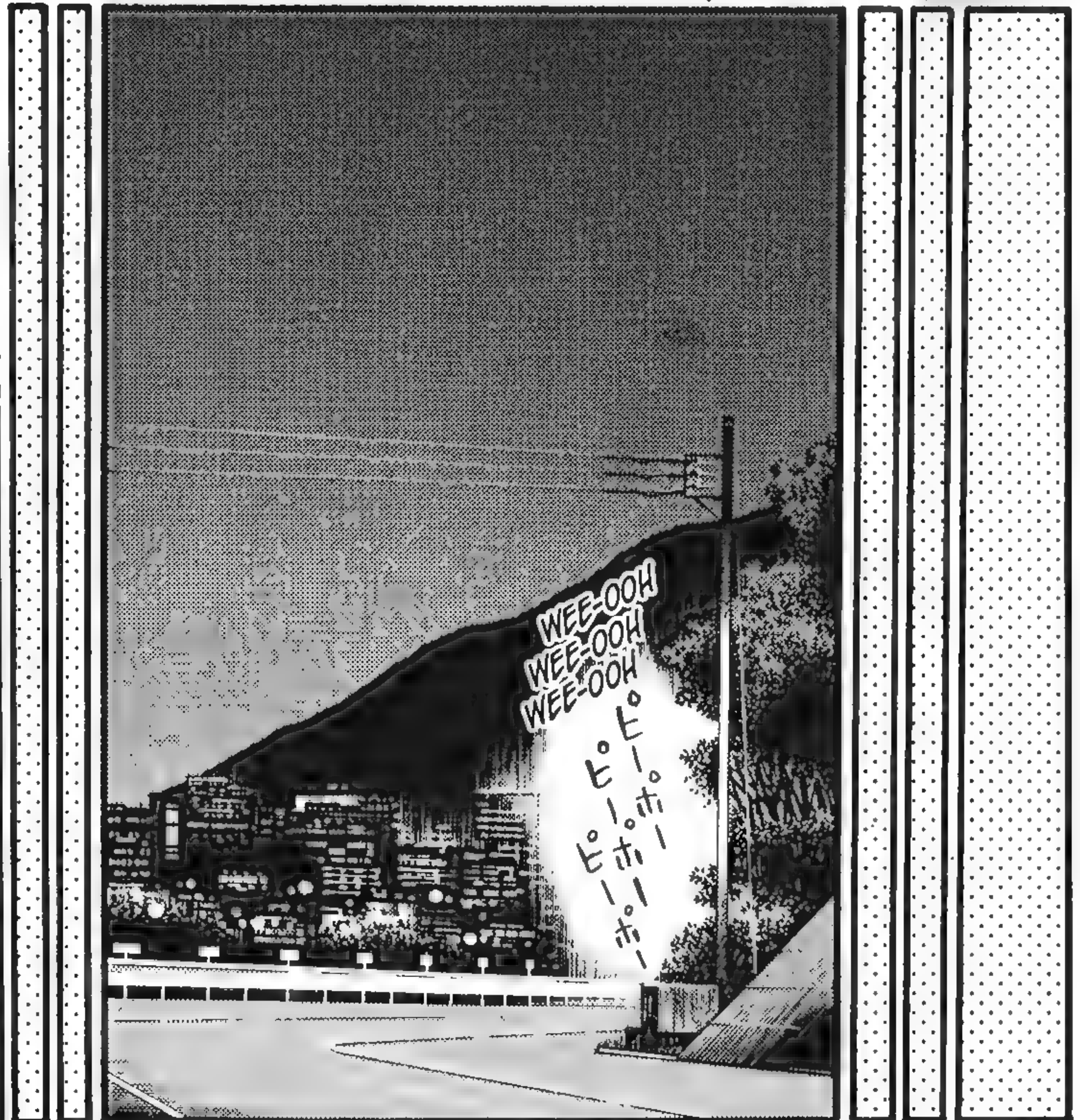
















IKETANI-  
SENPAI  
WAS IN AN  
ACCIDENT?!

WAAAAAT?!



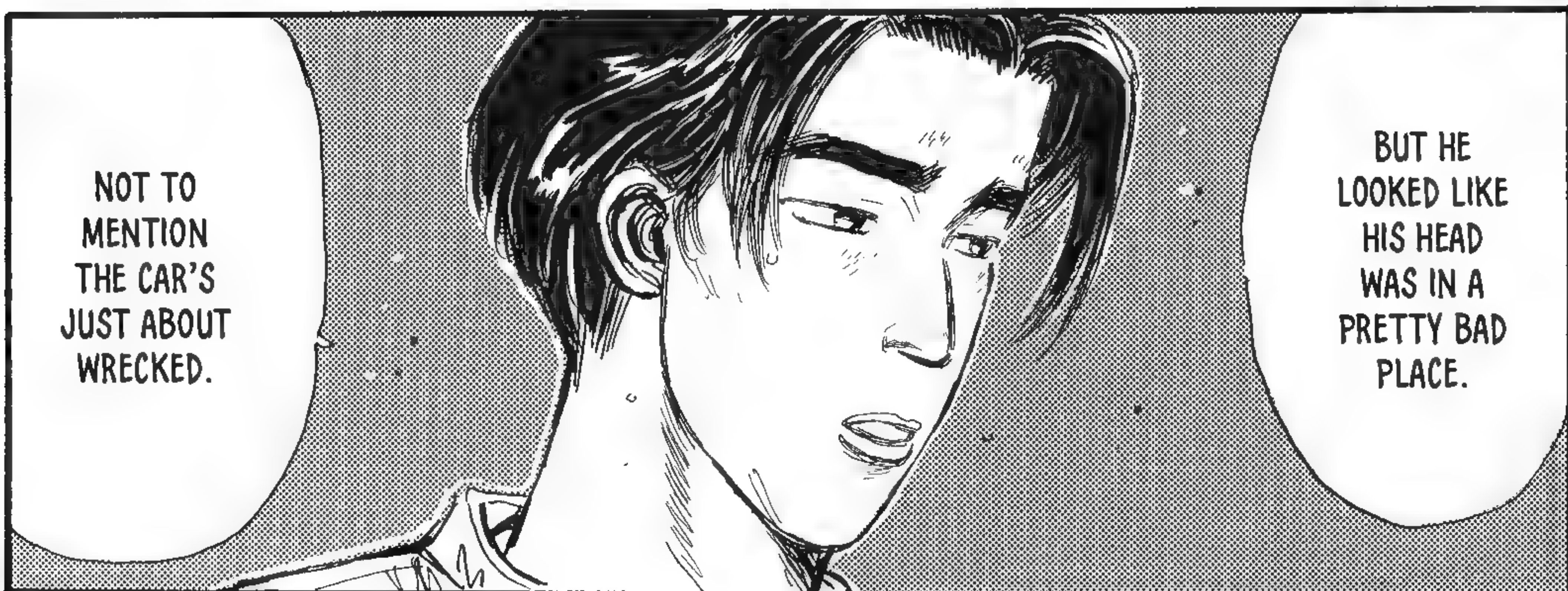
NOT AS BADLY  
AS HE COULD'VE  
BEEN. HE WAS  
WEARING A  
FOUR-POINT  
HARNESS. THAT  
HELPED.

IS HE  
HURT?

I SAW THE  
SCENE. HE DID  
A NUMBER  
ON THAT  
GUARDRAIL.

LAST  
NIGHT. HE  
WAS HEADING  
DOWNHILL  
ON AKINA...

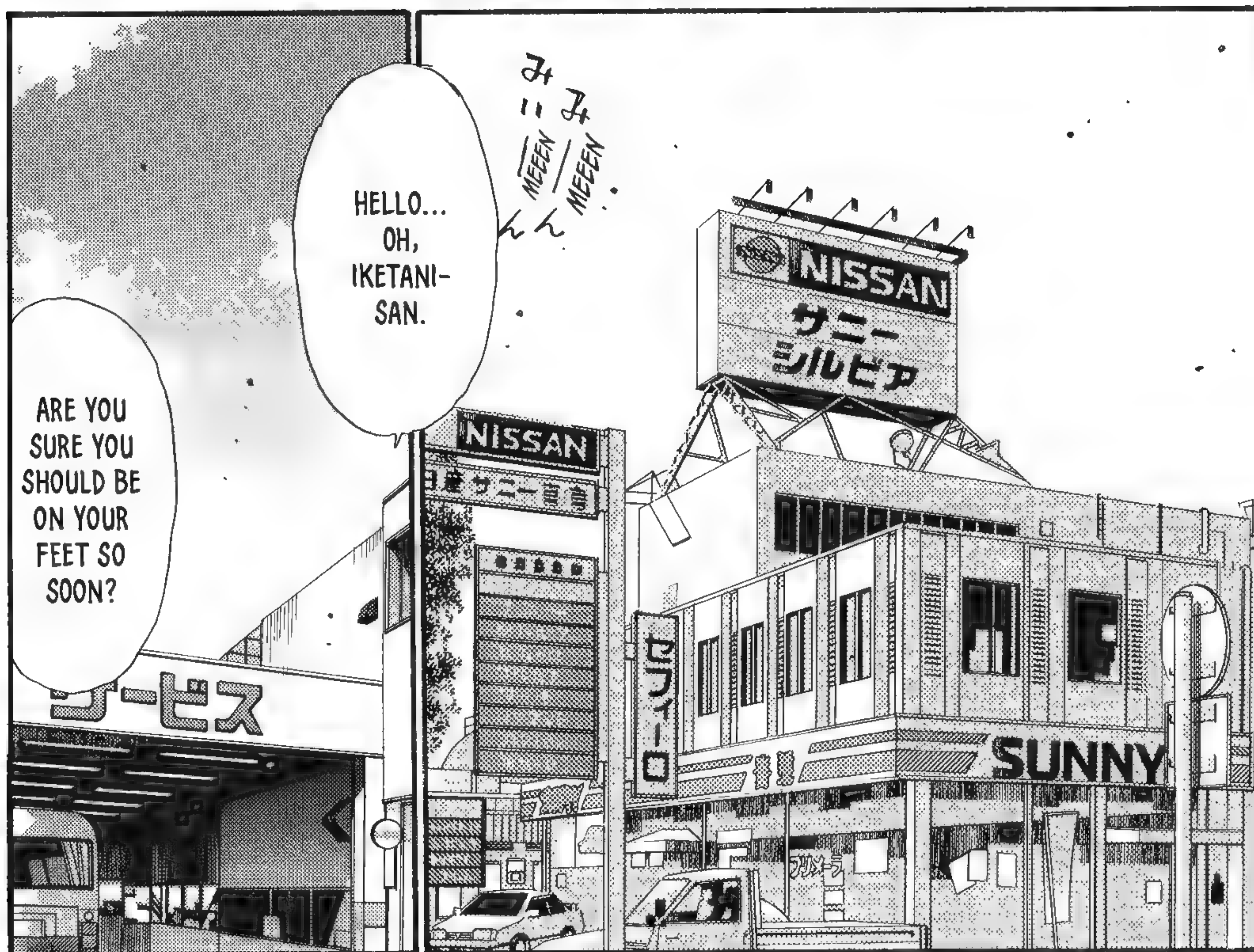
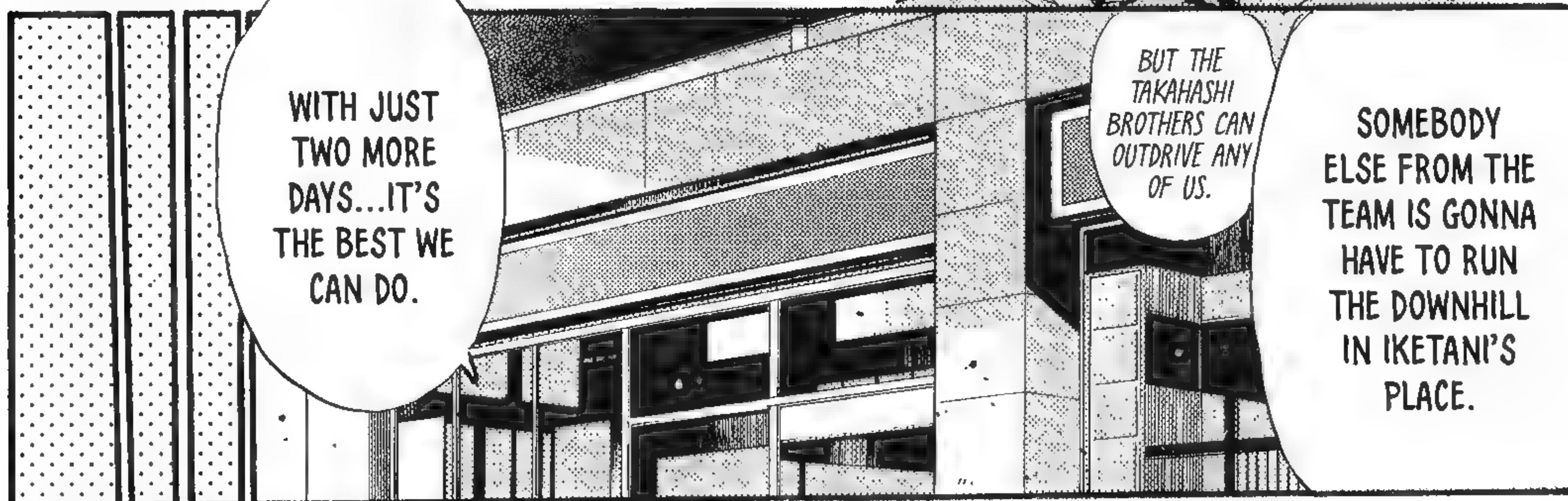
WHEN  
DID THIS  
HAPPEN?!



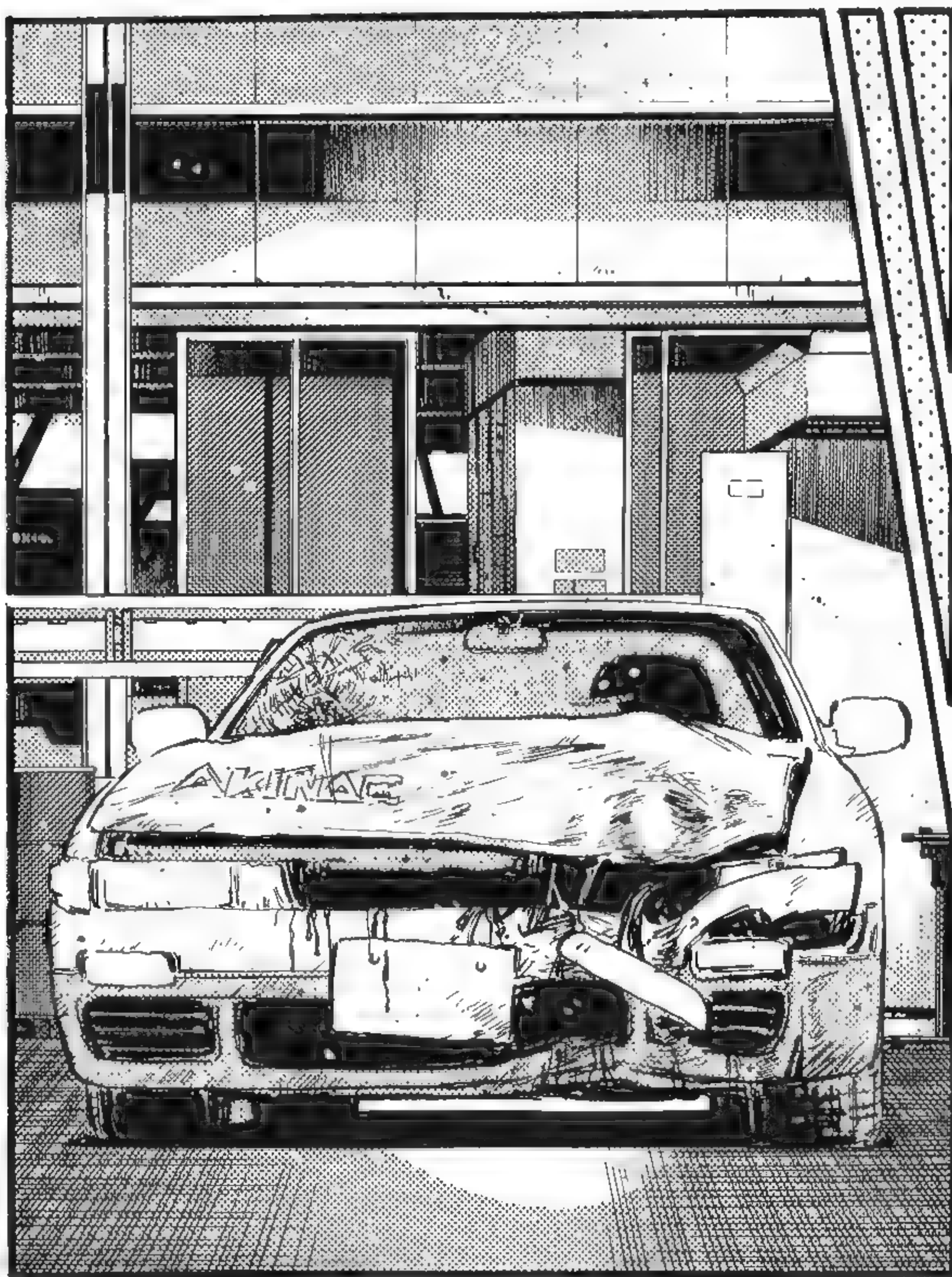
NOT TO  
MENTION  
THE CAR'S  
JUST ABOUT  
WRECKED.

BUT HE  
LOOKED LIKE  
HIS HEAD  
WAS IN A  
PRETTY BAD  
PLACE.









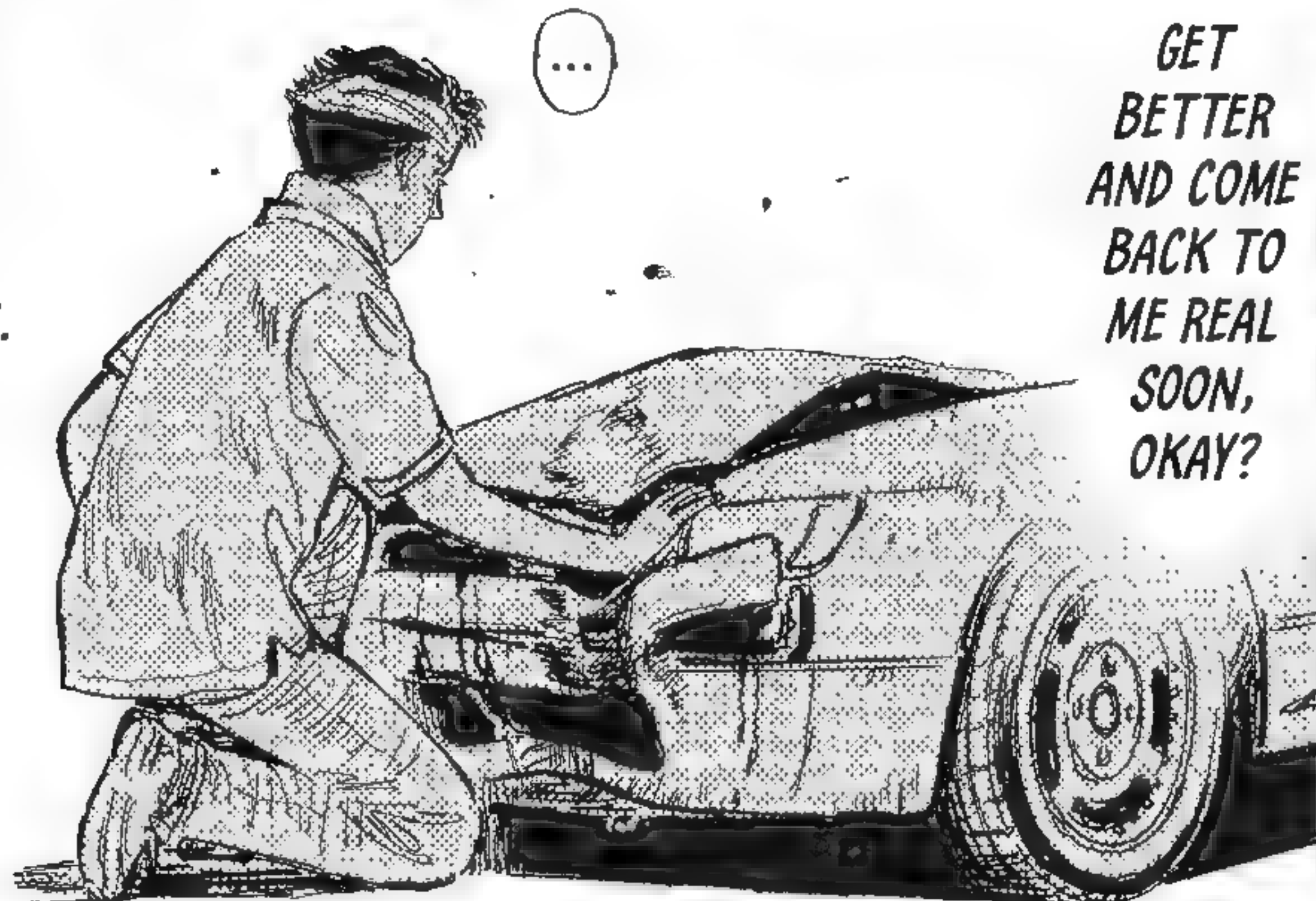




CAN  
YOU EVER  
FORGIVE  
ME?

I'M SORRY,  
GIRL... I'M A  
SHIT DRIVER,  
AND I GOT YOU  
HURT.

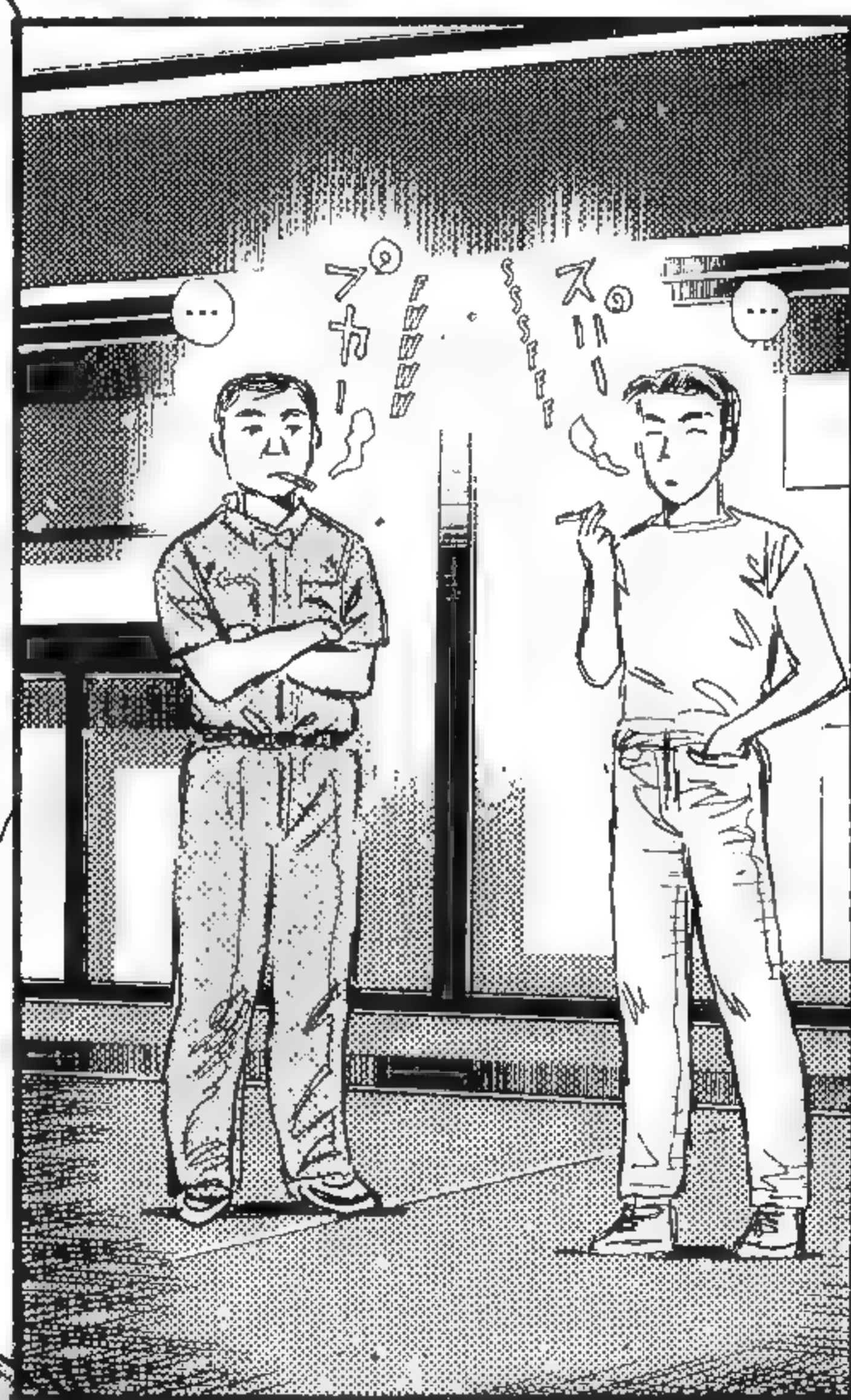
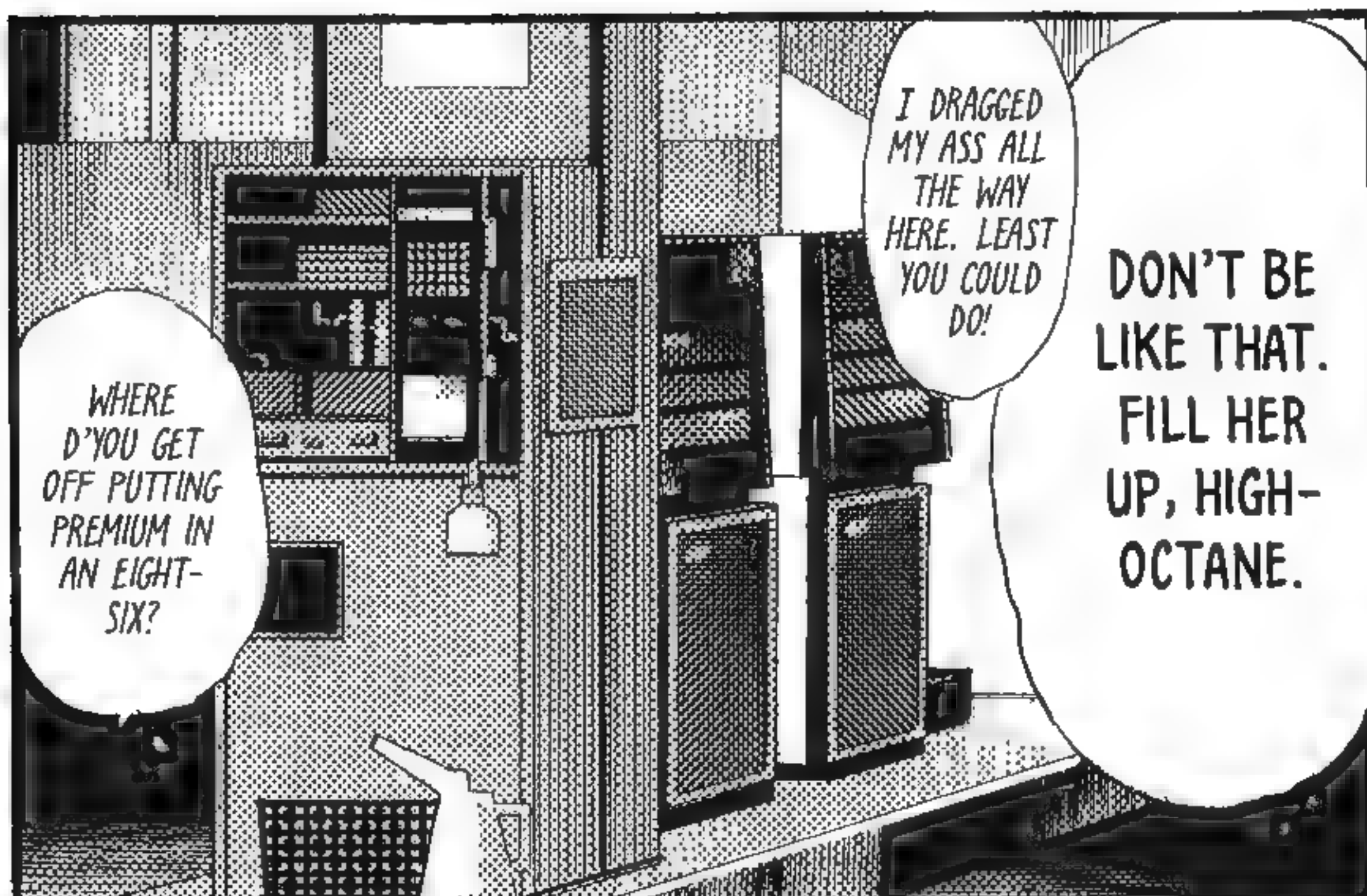
THEN WE  
CAN GO  
RACING  
AGAIN...  
TOGETHER.



GET  
BETTER  
AND COME  
BACK TO  
ME REAL  
SOON,  
OKAY?





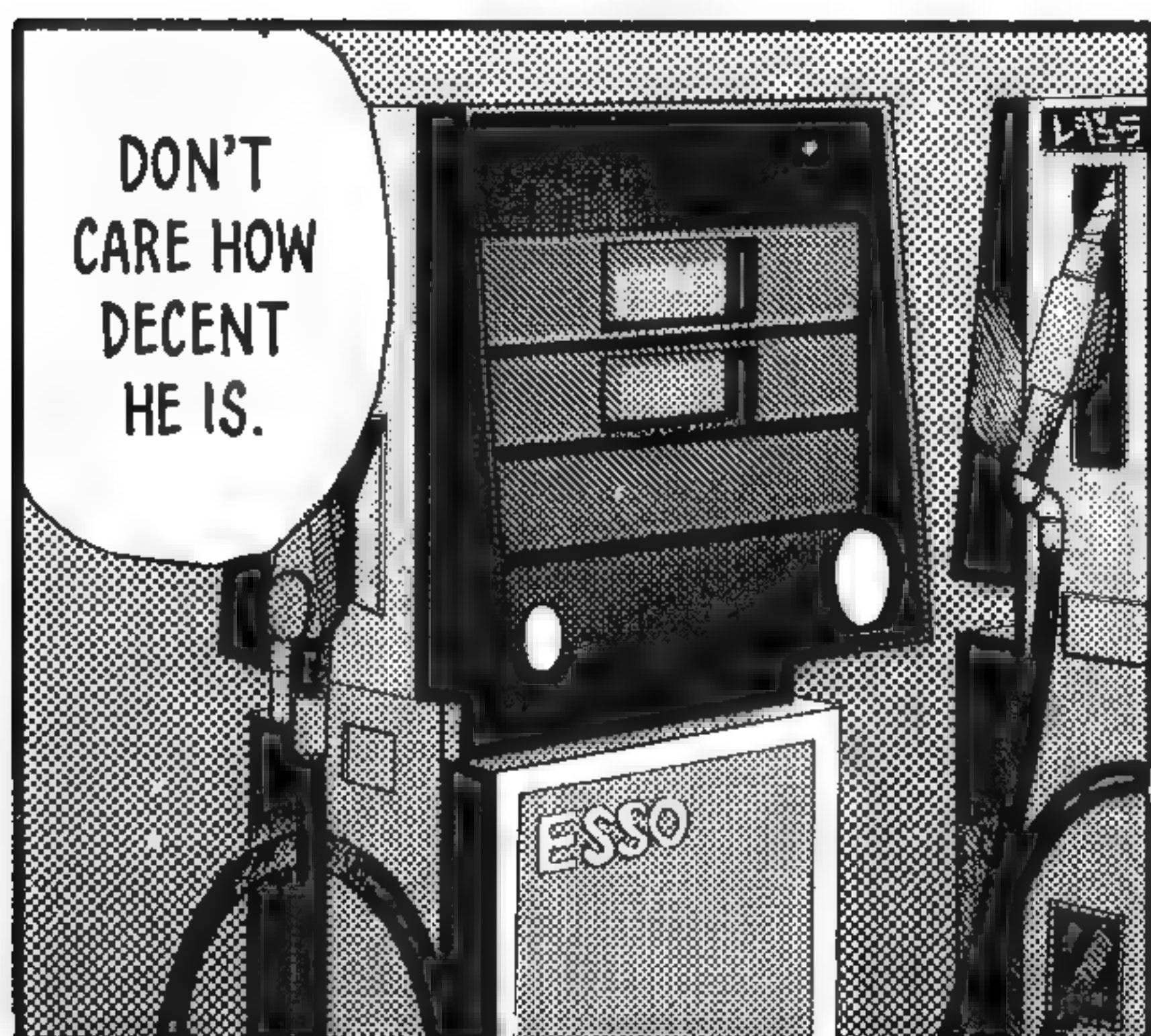






A CAR ACCIDENT, HE SAID. IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.

THE *PROBLEM* IS NOW HE WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE! HE WAS AT THE SHOP AGAIN TODAY. BANDAGE ON HIS HEAD, CAST ON HIS ARM, GETTIN' AROUND ON A MOPED, THE WORKS!

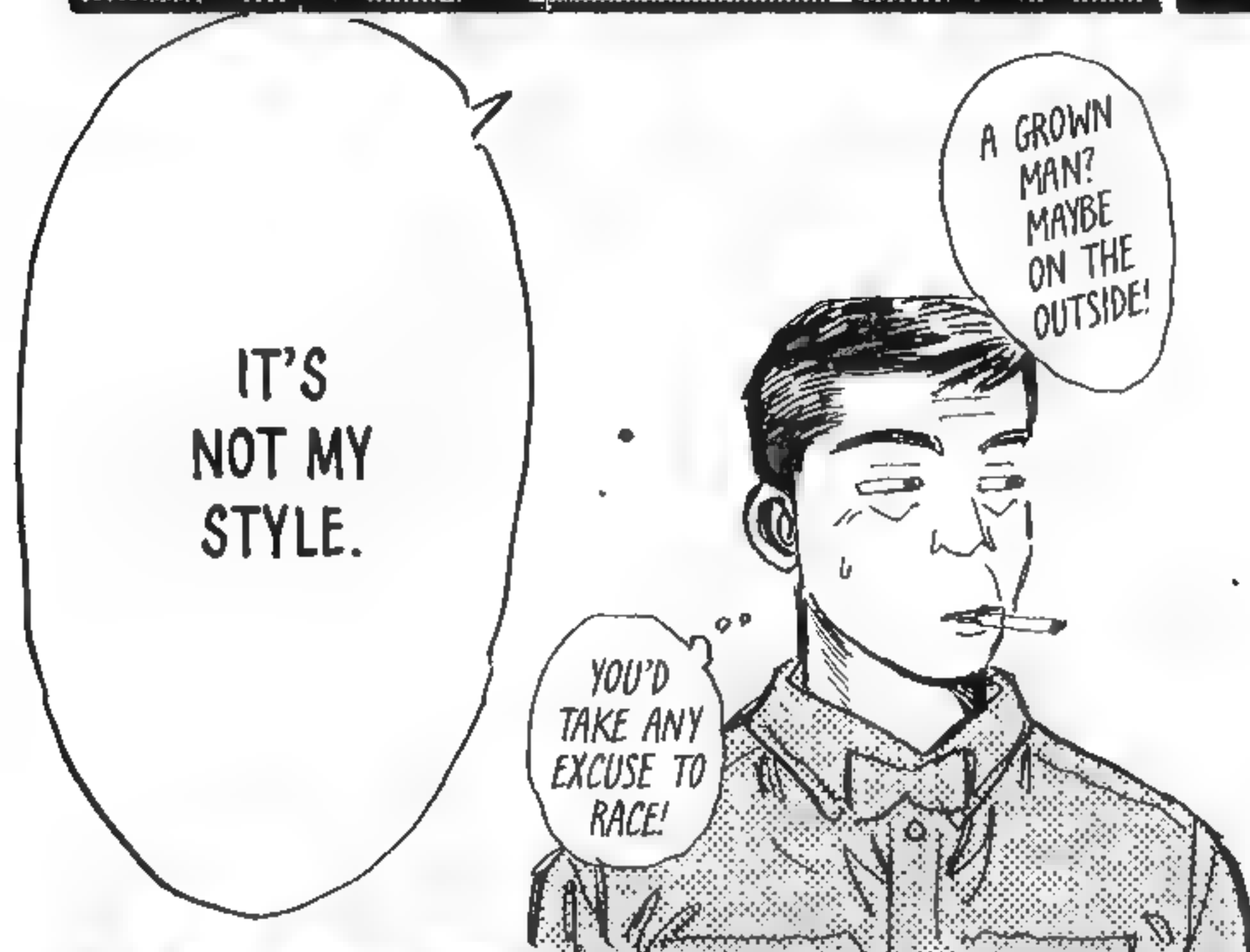


DON'T CARE HOW DECENT HE IS.



IKETANI'S A DECENT GUY.

IF YOU FEEL SORRY FOR HIM, WHY DON'T YOU HELP HIM OUT AND RACE?



IT'S NOT MY STYLE.

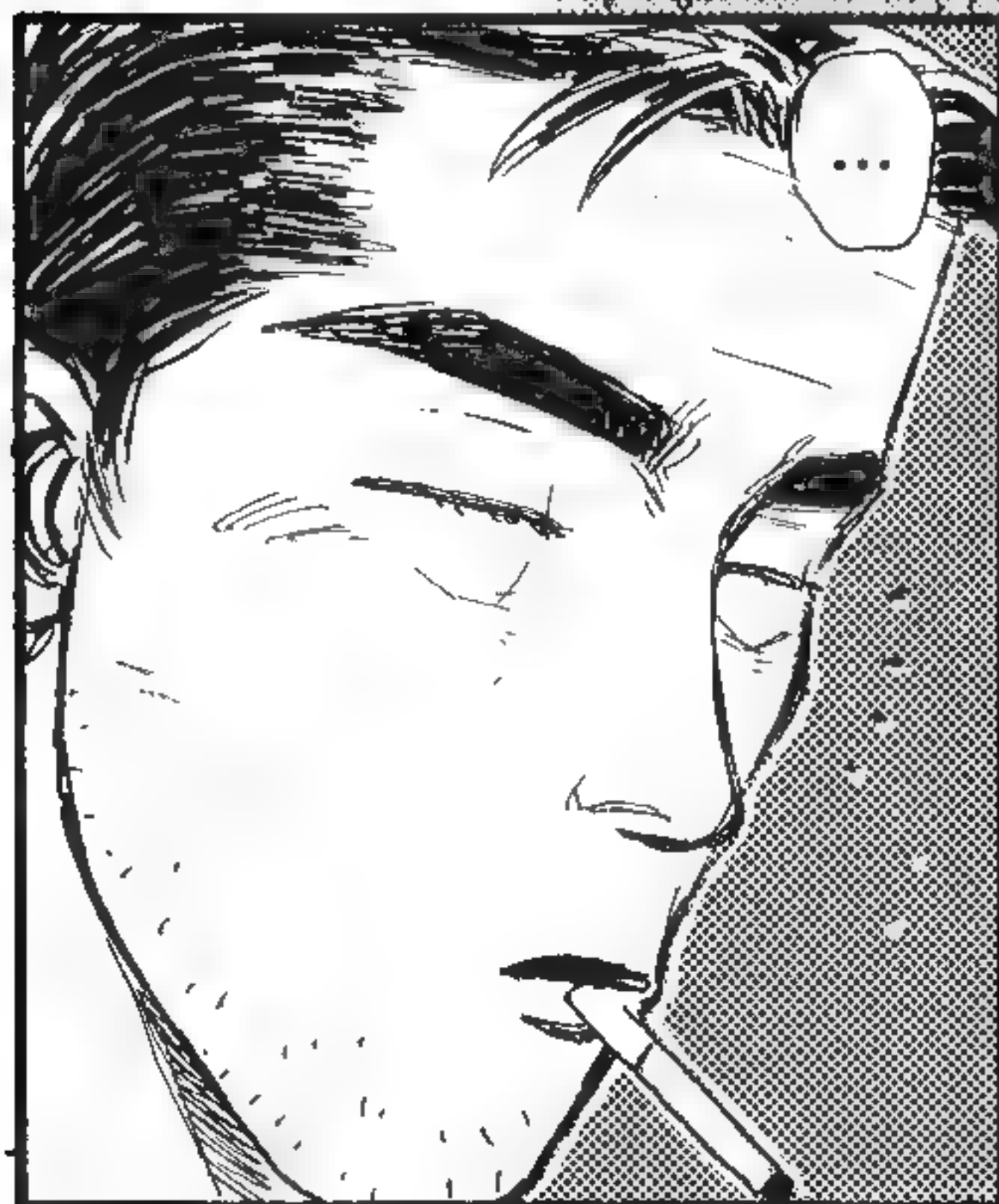
YOU'D TAKE ANY EXCUSE TO RACE!

A GROWN MAN? MAYBE ON THE OUTSIDE!



BAH!

I'M A GROWN MAN. I'M TOO OLD TO BE GETTIN' DOWN IN THE MUCK WITH SOME HOTHEADED PUNKS.



YOU'VE GOT ONE OF YOUR OWN. SEND HIM.



FINE. THEY'RE JUST PUNK KIDS TO YOU?



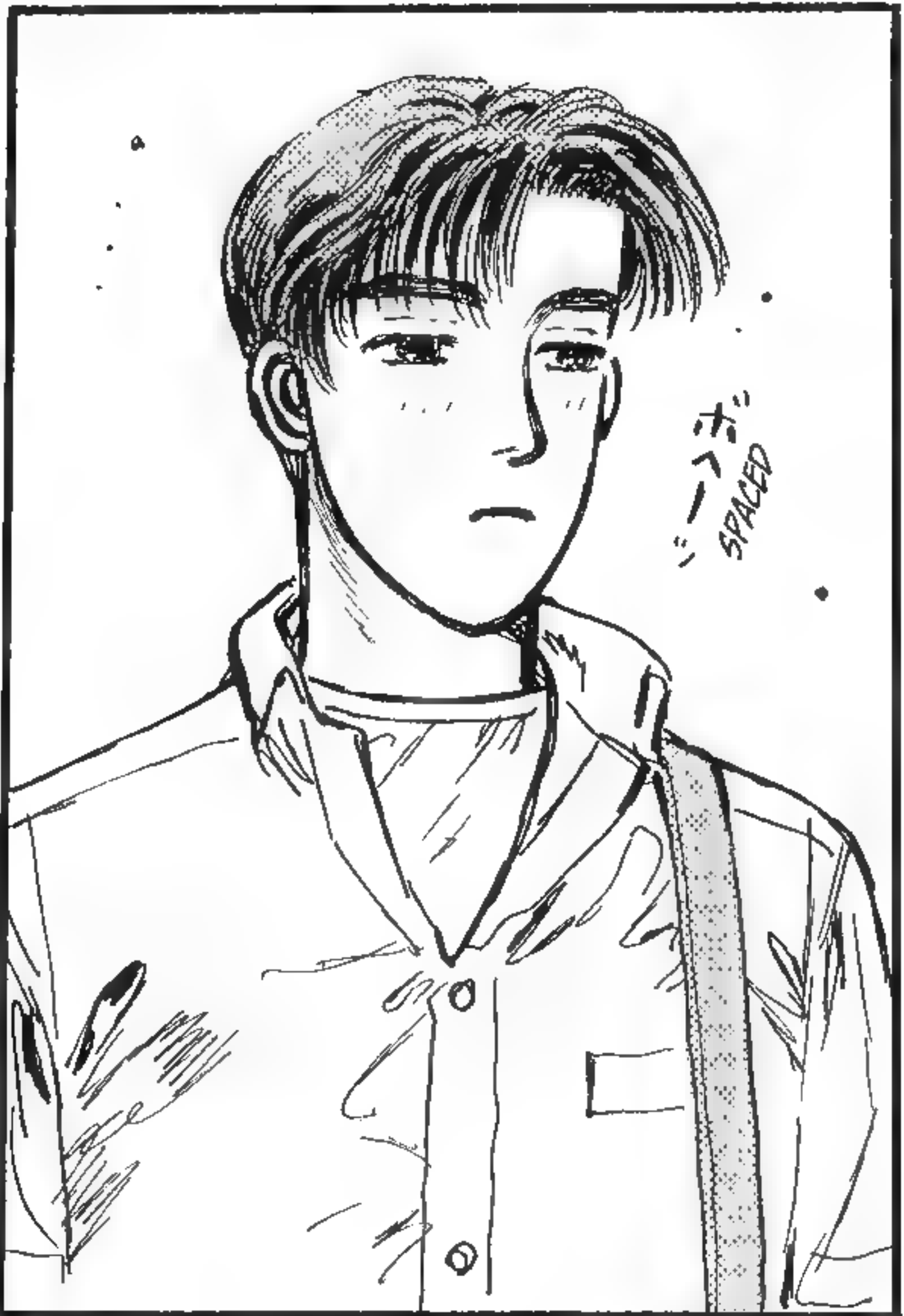
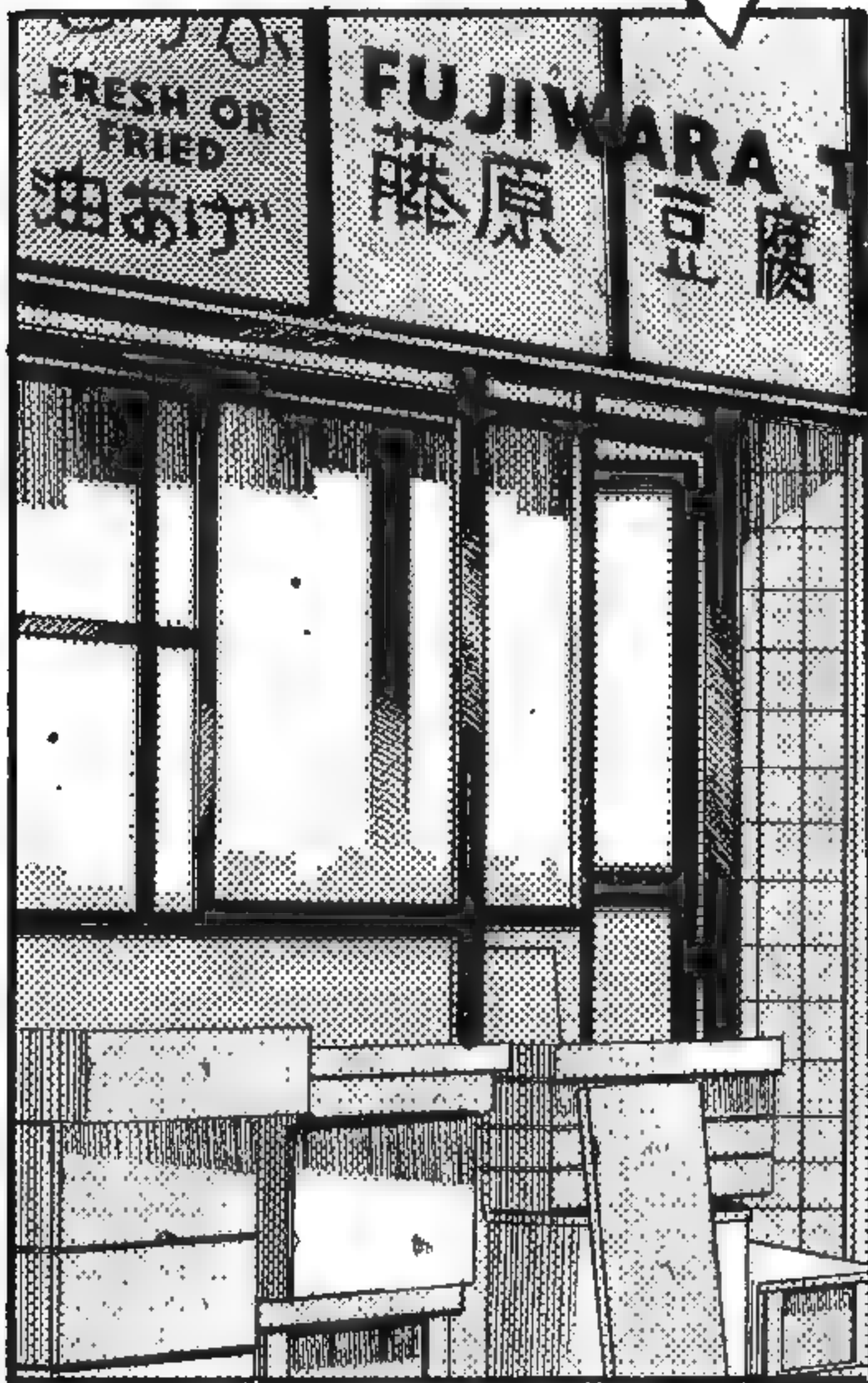




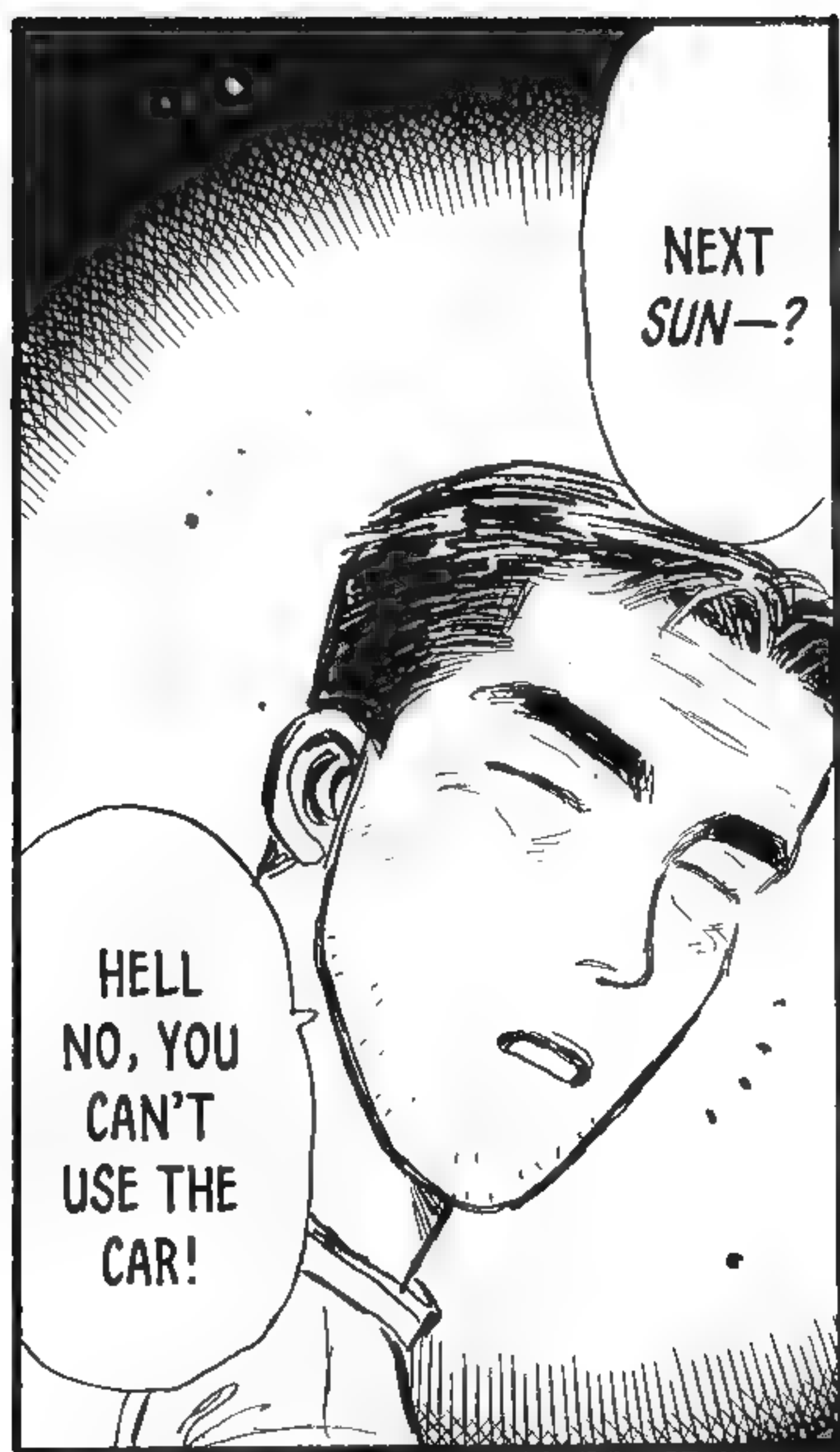


SEE YA.

THOSE BANDAGES DID PULL AT MY HEART-STRINGS.







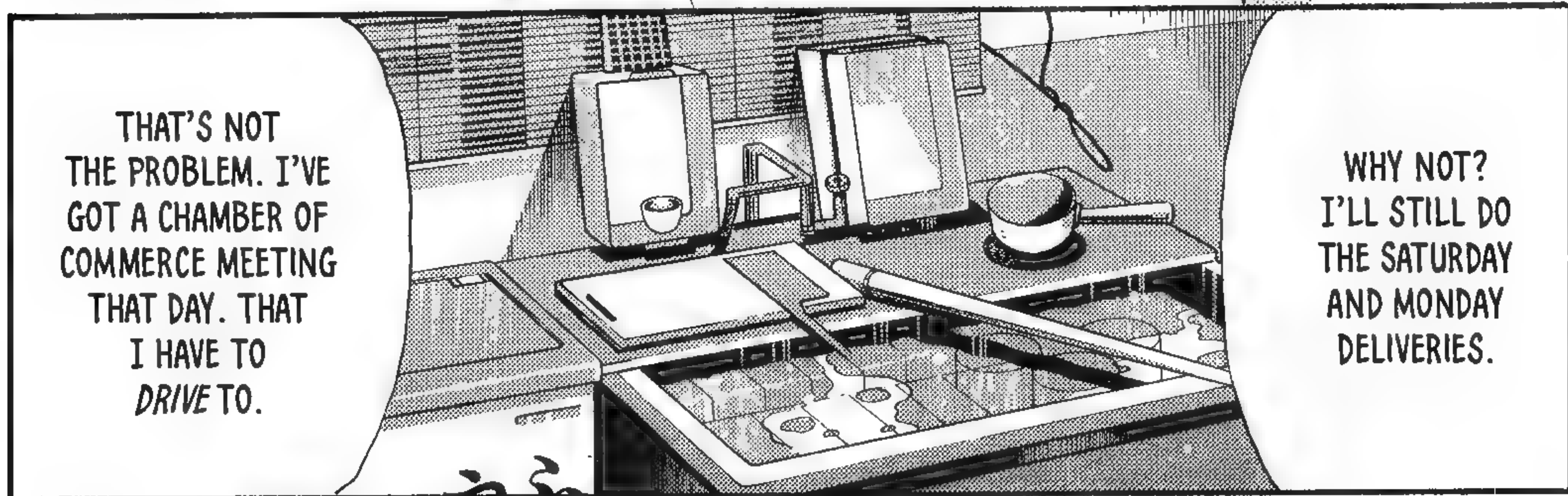
NEXT  
SUN—?

HELL  
NO, YOU  
CAN'T  
USE THE  
CAR!



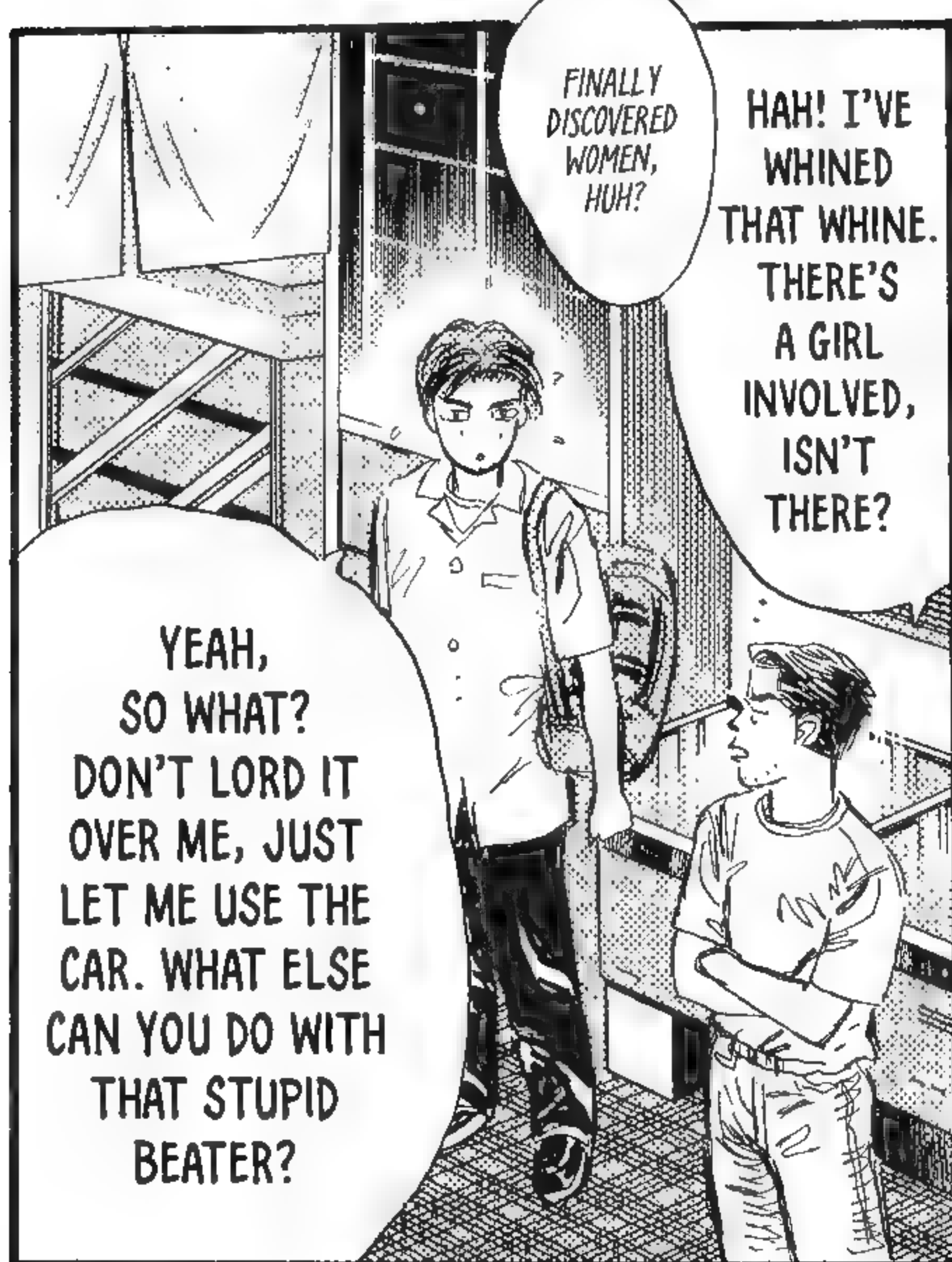
HEY,  
DAD?

JUST  
LETTING  
YOU KNOW,  
BUT I WANT  
TO USE THE  
CAR NEXT  
SUNDAY.



THAT'S NOT  
THE PROBLEM. I'VE  
GOT A CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE MEETING  
THAT DAY. THAT  
I HAVE TO  
DRIVE TO.

WHY NOT?  
I'LL STILL DO  
THE SATURDAY  
AND MONDAY  
DELIVERIES.



FINALLY  
DISCOVERED  
WOMEN,  
HUH?

HAH! I'VE  
WHINED  
THAT WHINE.  
THERE'S  
A GIRL  
INVOLVED,  
ISN'T  
THERE?

YEAH,  
SO WHAT?  
DON'T LORD IT  
OVER ME, JUST  
LET ME USE THE  
CAR. WHAT ELSE  
CAN YOU DO WITH  
THAT STUPID  
BEATER?



DING!  
E!



I REALLY  
NEED THE  
CAR THAT  
DAY!

AW, COME  
ON! THAT  
SUCKS!





IF HE  
WON'T EVEN  
LET ME USE  
THAT OLD  
JUNKHEAP,  
I'M IN REAL  
TROUBLE!

OOH,  
DIRTY  
TRICK!

NOT  
WITHOUT THE  
KEY, YOU'RE  
NOT. THINK  
I'LL PUT IT  
ON A STRING  
AND HANG IT  
AROUND MY  
NECK...

HEH  
HEH!

I DON'T  
CARE  
WHAT  
YOU SAY.  
I'M JUST  
GONNA  
TAKE IT.



BUT  
YOU'VE  
GOTTA DO  
SOME-  
THING  
FOR ME  
FIRST.

HELL  
YES!

I KNEW  
YOU HAD A  
GOOD SIDE,  
YOU OLD  
JERK!

YOU  
WILL?!



I'LL  
THINK  
ABOUT  
IT.

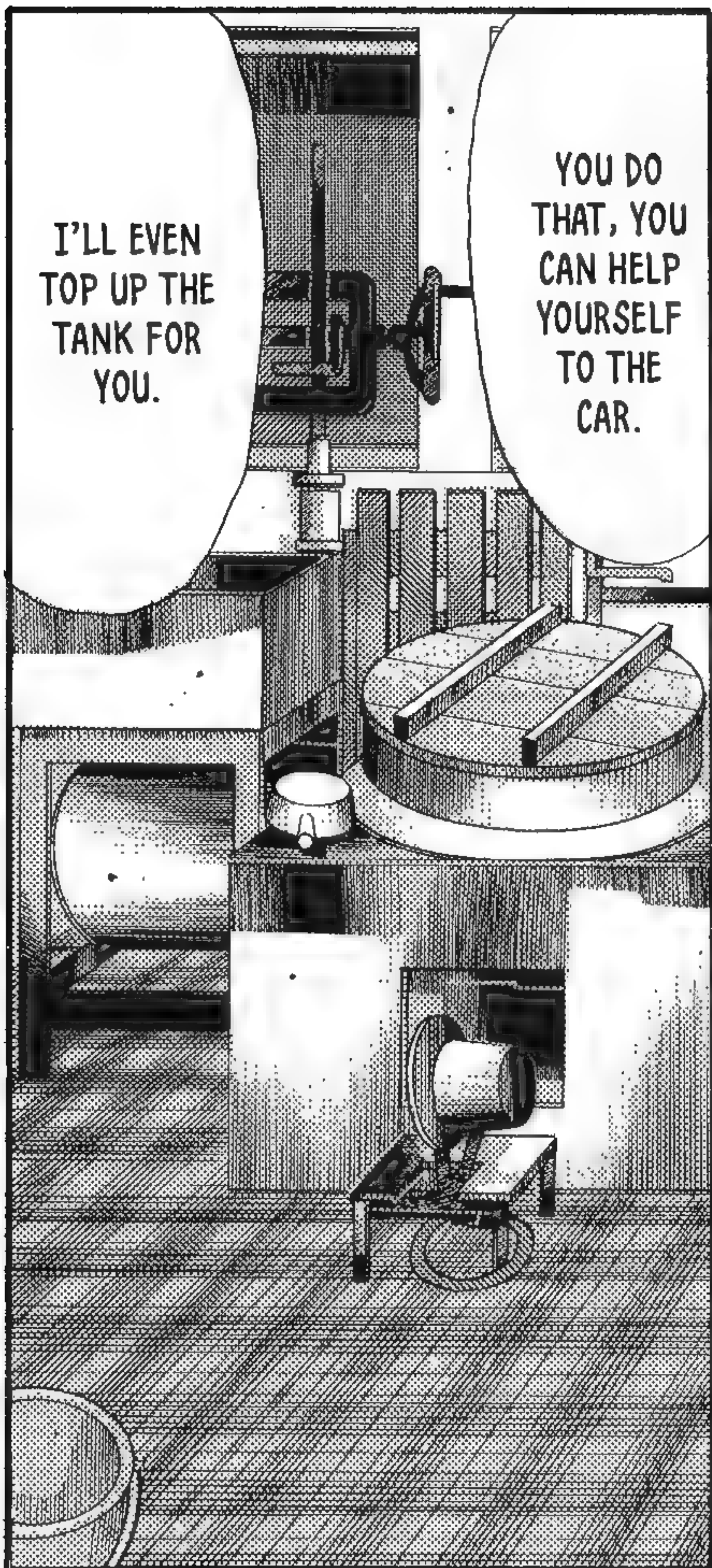
HEY,  
IF YOU'RE  
THAT  
DESPERATE,  
WELL...



...ON  
AKINA'S  
DOWNHILL!

THERE'S  
BEEN SOME KIDS  
AROUND MOUTHING  
OFF ABOUT BEING  
THE FASTEST  
DRIVERS ON AKAGI.  
SATURDAY NIGHT,  
YOU TAKE THAT  
CAR, AND YOU GIVE  
'EM SOMETHING TO  
THINK ABOUT...





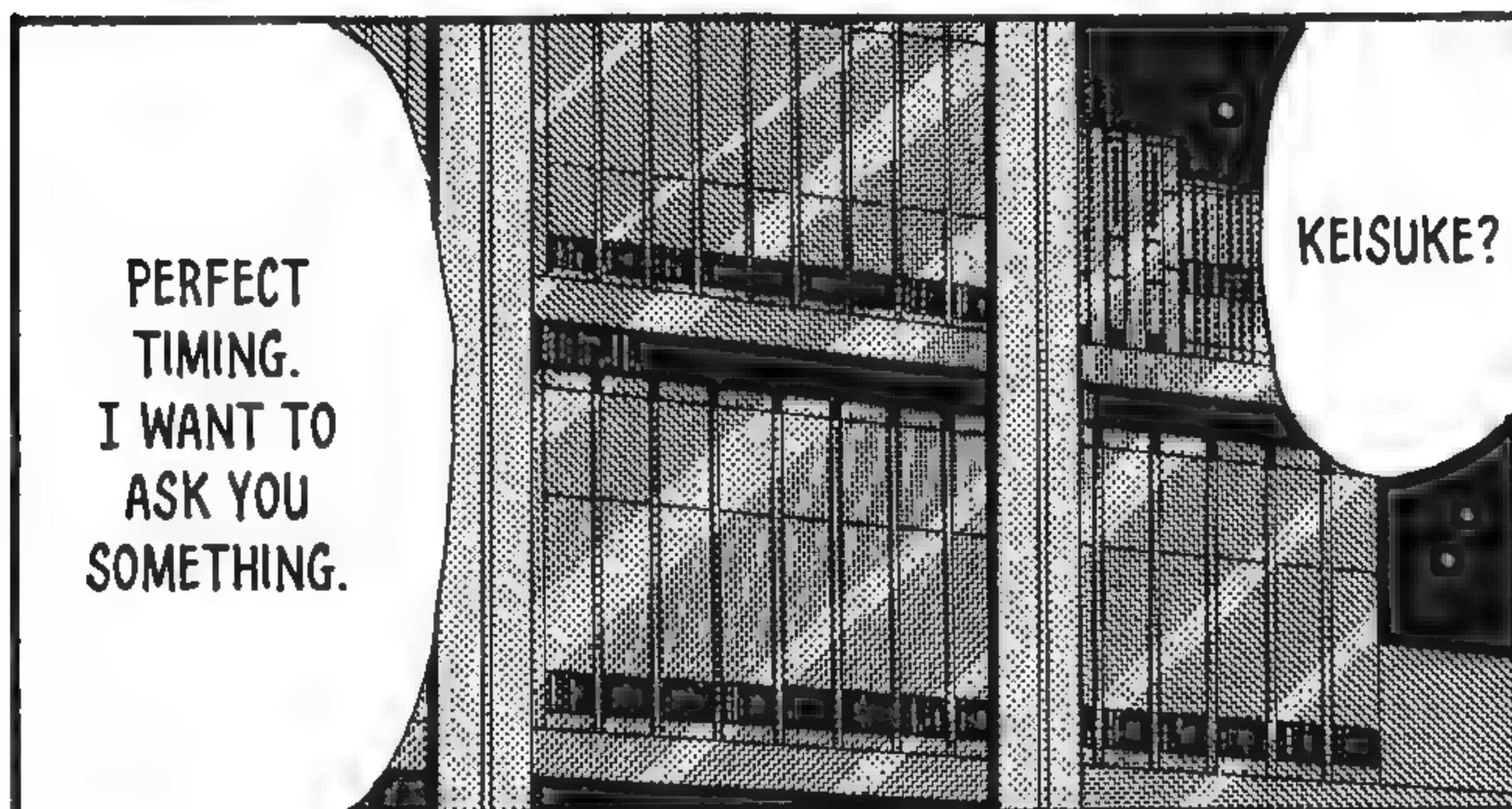
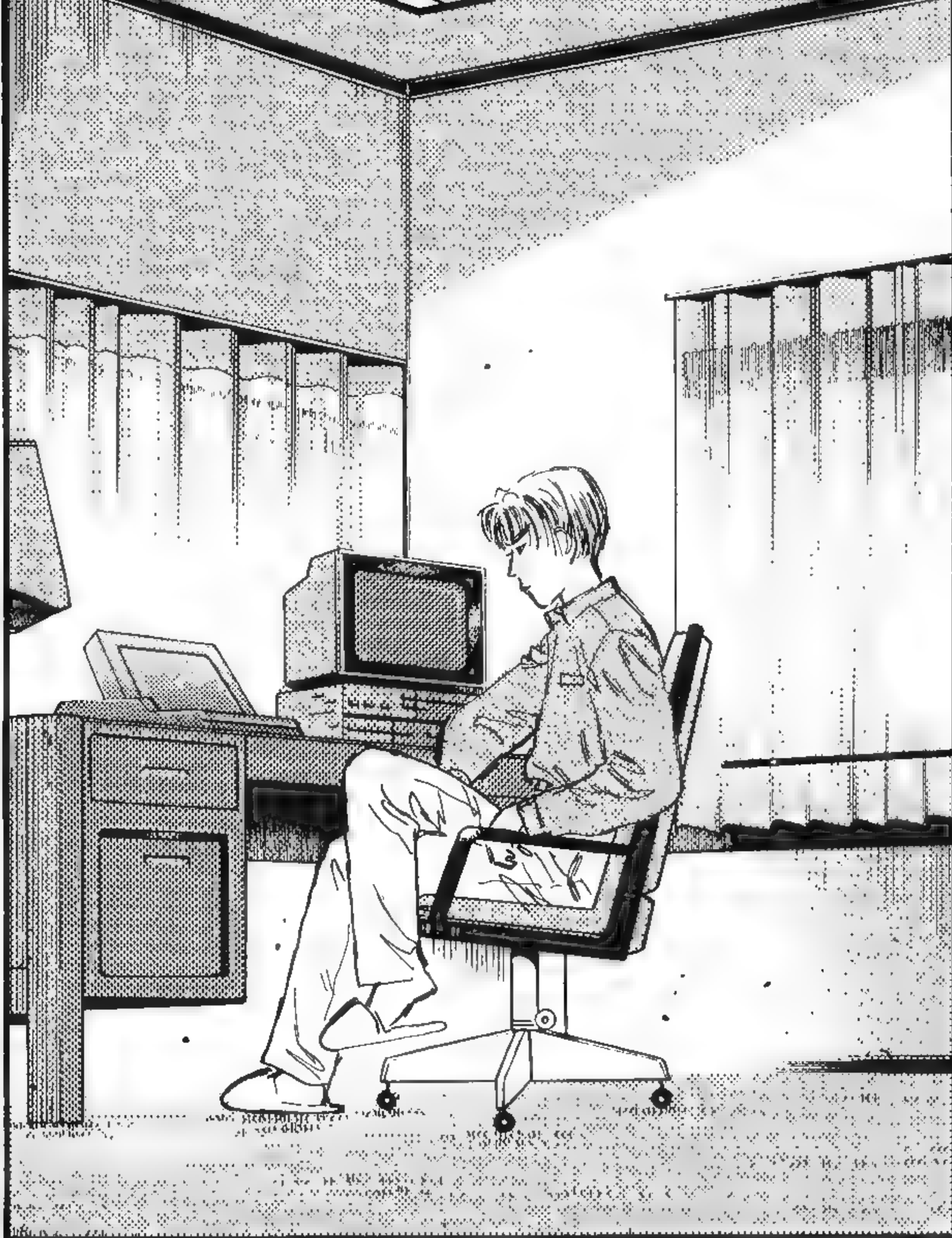






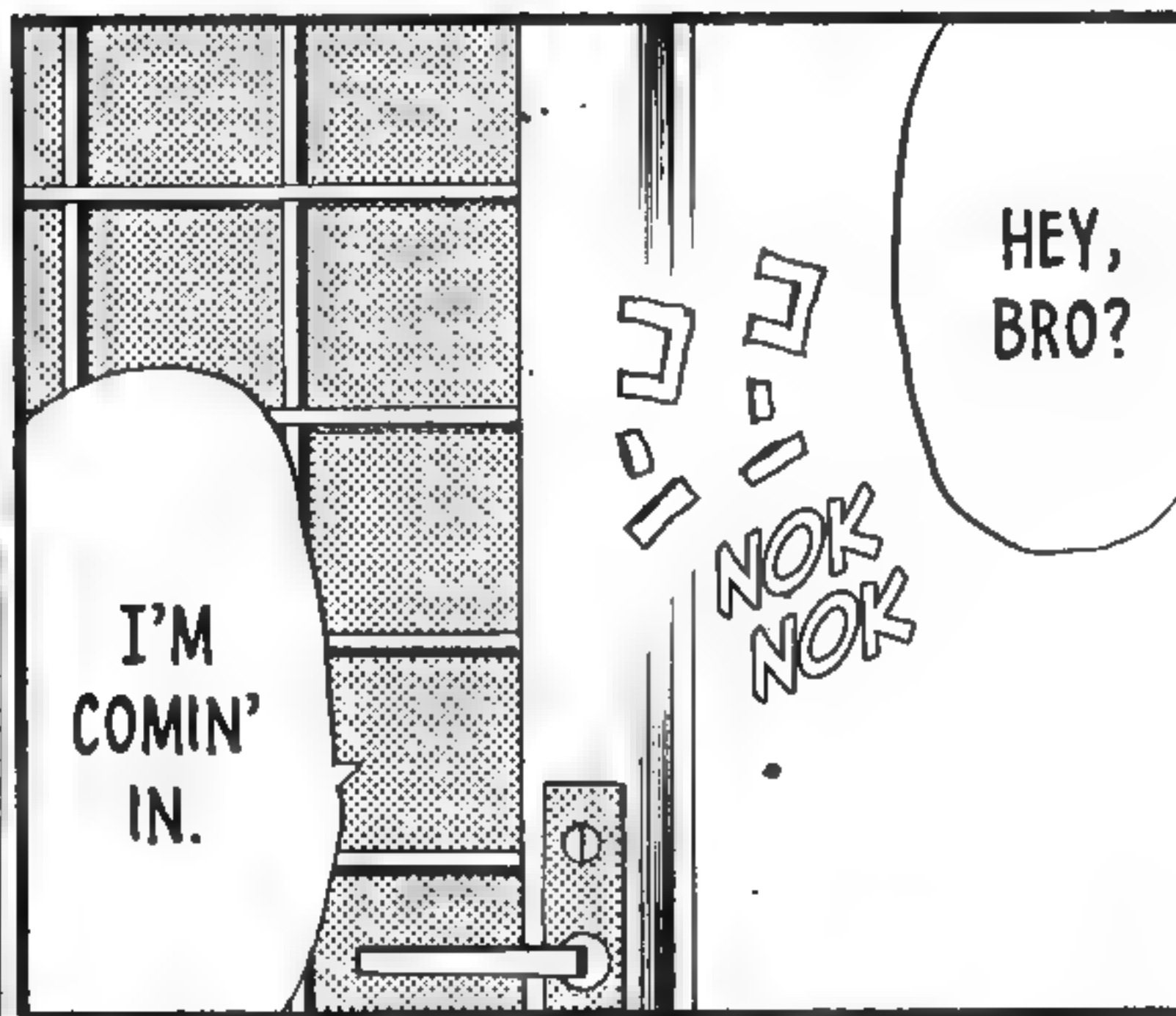


Ryo-  
suke  
Taka-  
hashi



PERFECT  
TIMING.  
I WANT TO  
ASK YOU  
SOMETHING.

KEISUKE?



HEY,  
BRO?

I'M  
COMIN'  
IN.



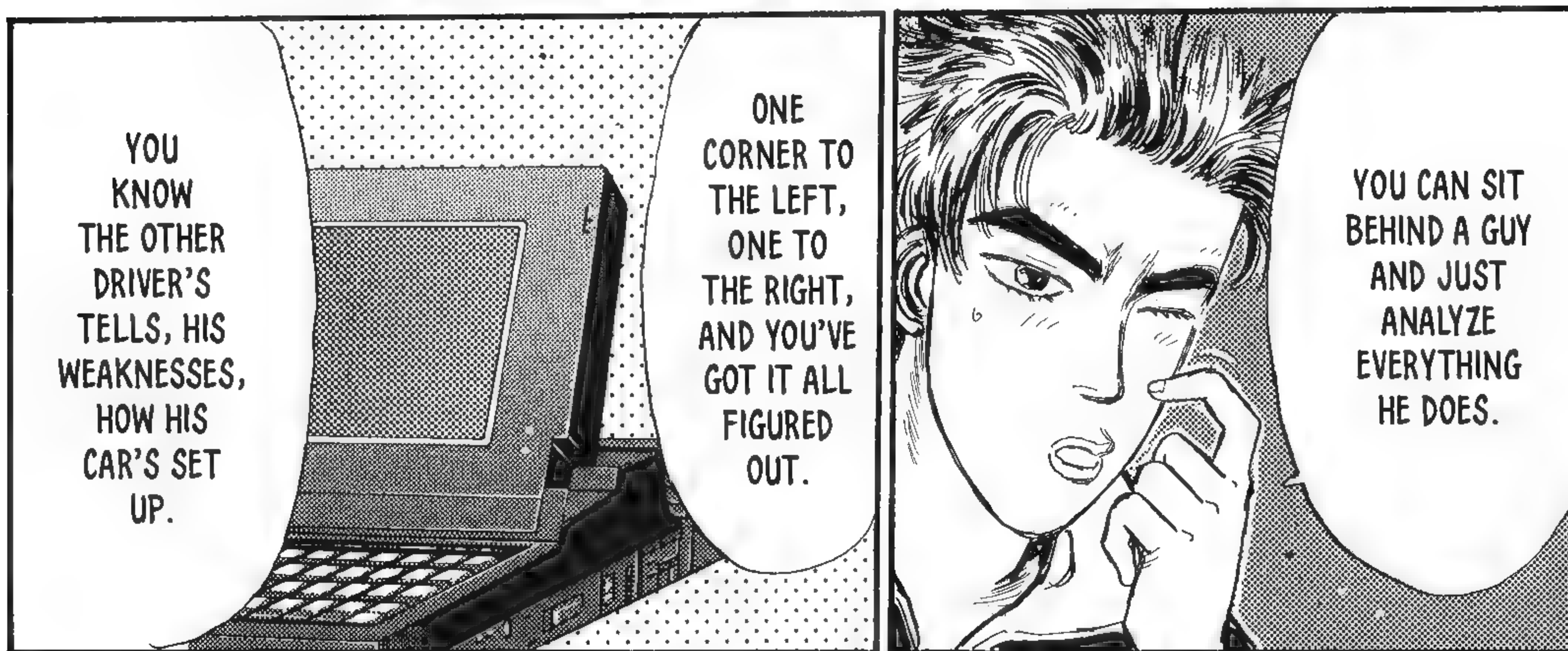
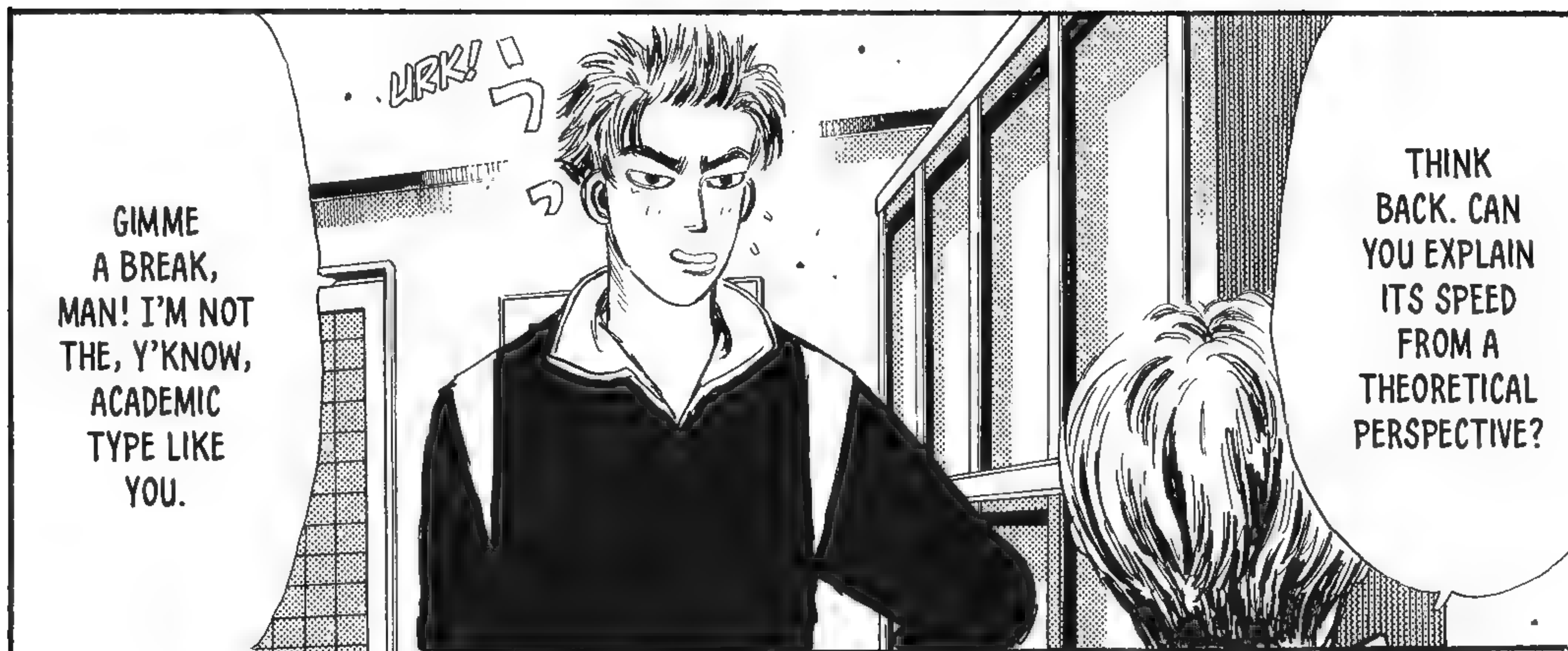
IT SOUNDS  
LIKE IT COULD  
YIELD USEFUL  
DATA FOR THE  
THEORY  
I'VE BEEN  
DEVELOPING.

THIS EIGHT-  
SIX YOU SAY  
YOU SAW ON  
AKINA.

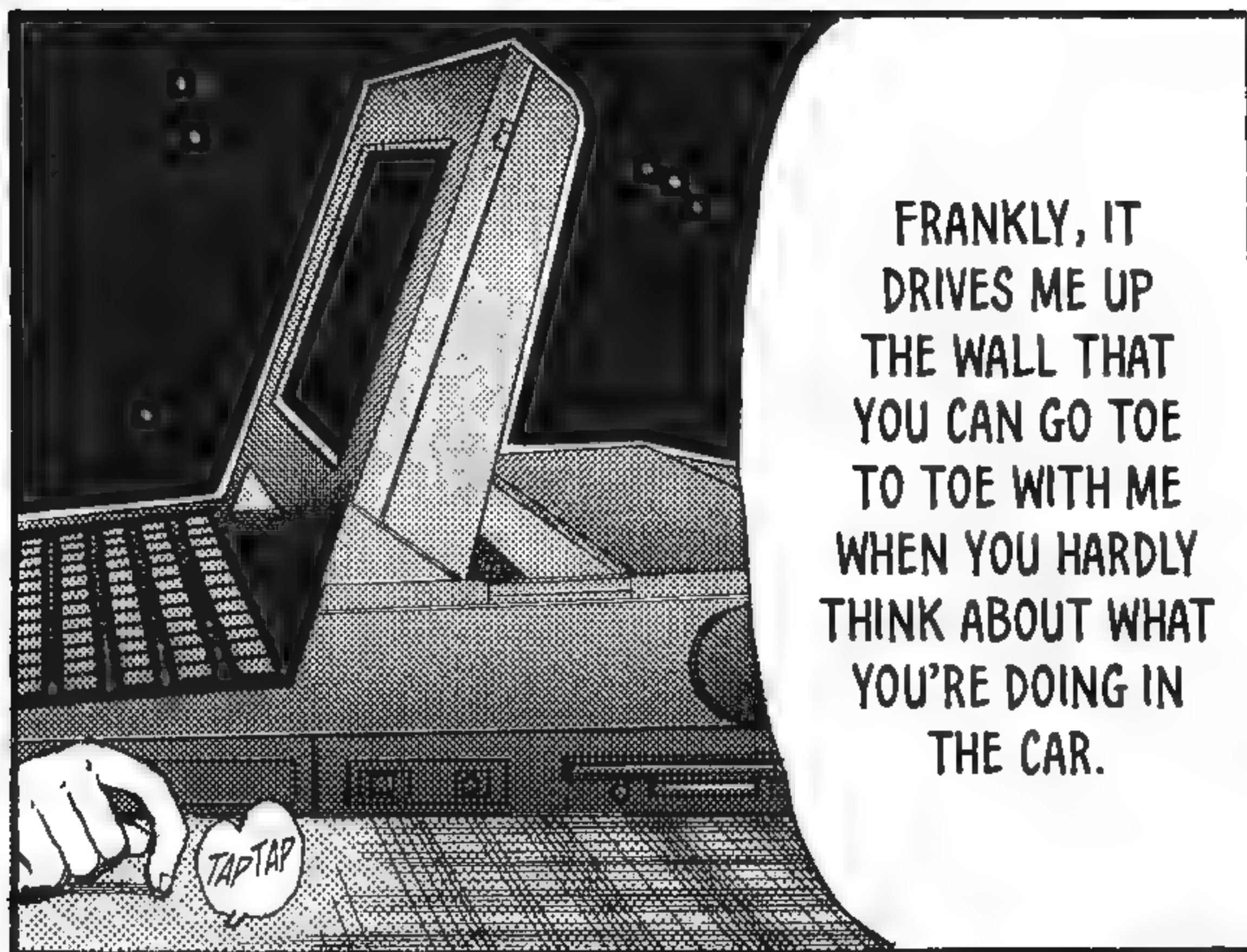


AUTHOR'S  
NOTE:  
NOT  
GUN!









FRANKLY, IT DRIVES ME UP THE WALL THAT YOU CAN GO TOE TO TOE WITH ME WHEN YOU HARDLY THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING IN THE CAR.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF YOUR DRIVING SKILL IS UP HERE.

DON'T I ALWAYS TELL YOU?

AM I NOT GETTING THROUGH?



WELL, SO BE IT.

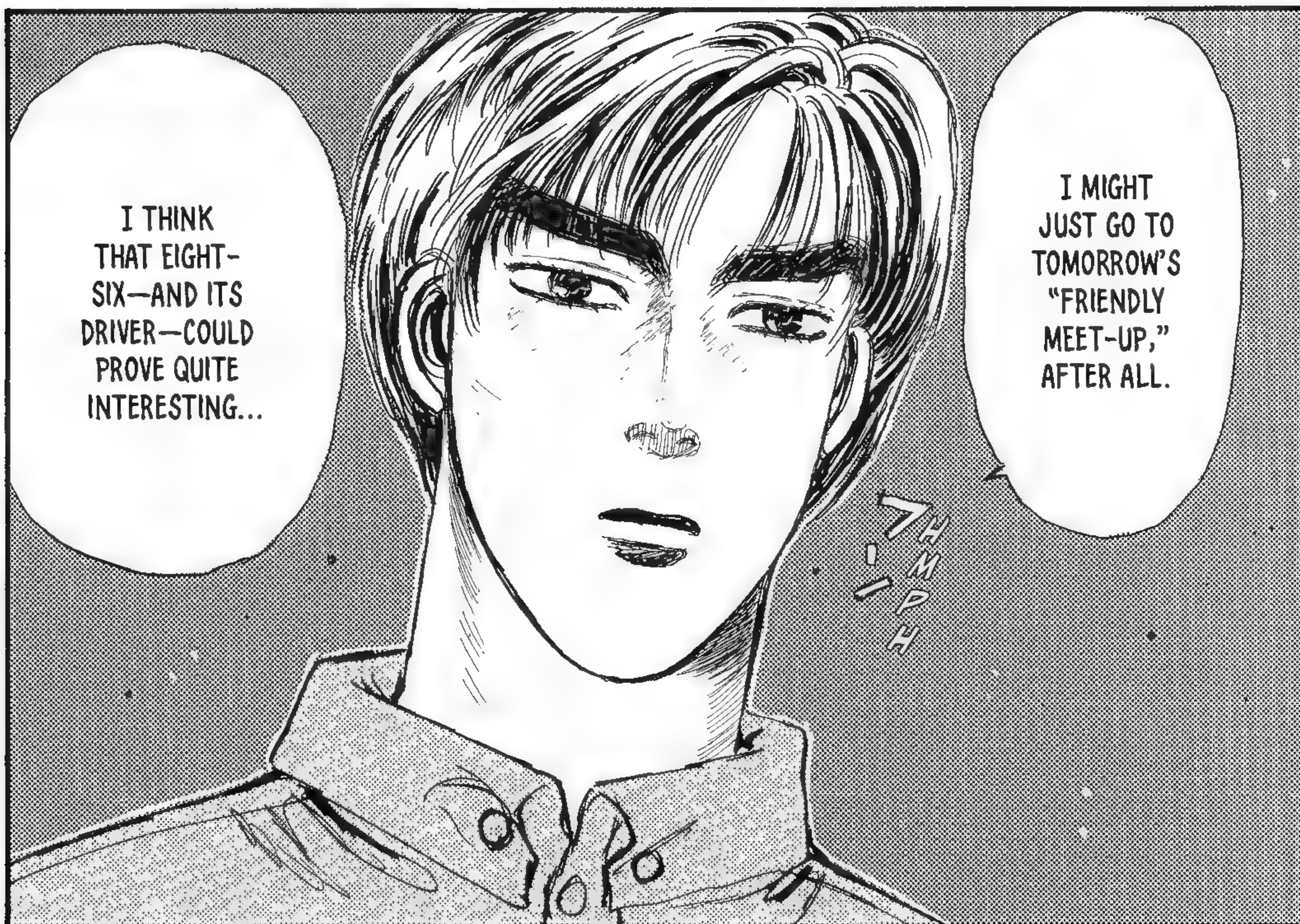
I MUST WAIT UNTIL YOU WANT TO CHANGE.



IF YOU COULD ADD A MASTERY OF THEORY TO YOUR SKILLS BEHIND THE WHEEL, KEISUKE, YOU WOULD BECOME THE IDEAL DRIVER.

I THINK THAT EIGHT-SIX—AND ITS DRIVER—COULD PROVE QUITE INTERESTING...

I MIGHT JUST GO TO TOMORROW'S "FRIENDLY MEET-UP," AFTER ALL.





## ► Ch. 8: The "Friendly Battle" Begins!

**Bunta Fujiwara (43 y/o)**

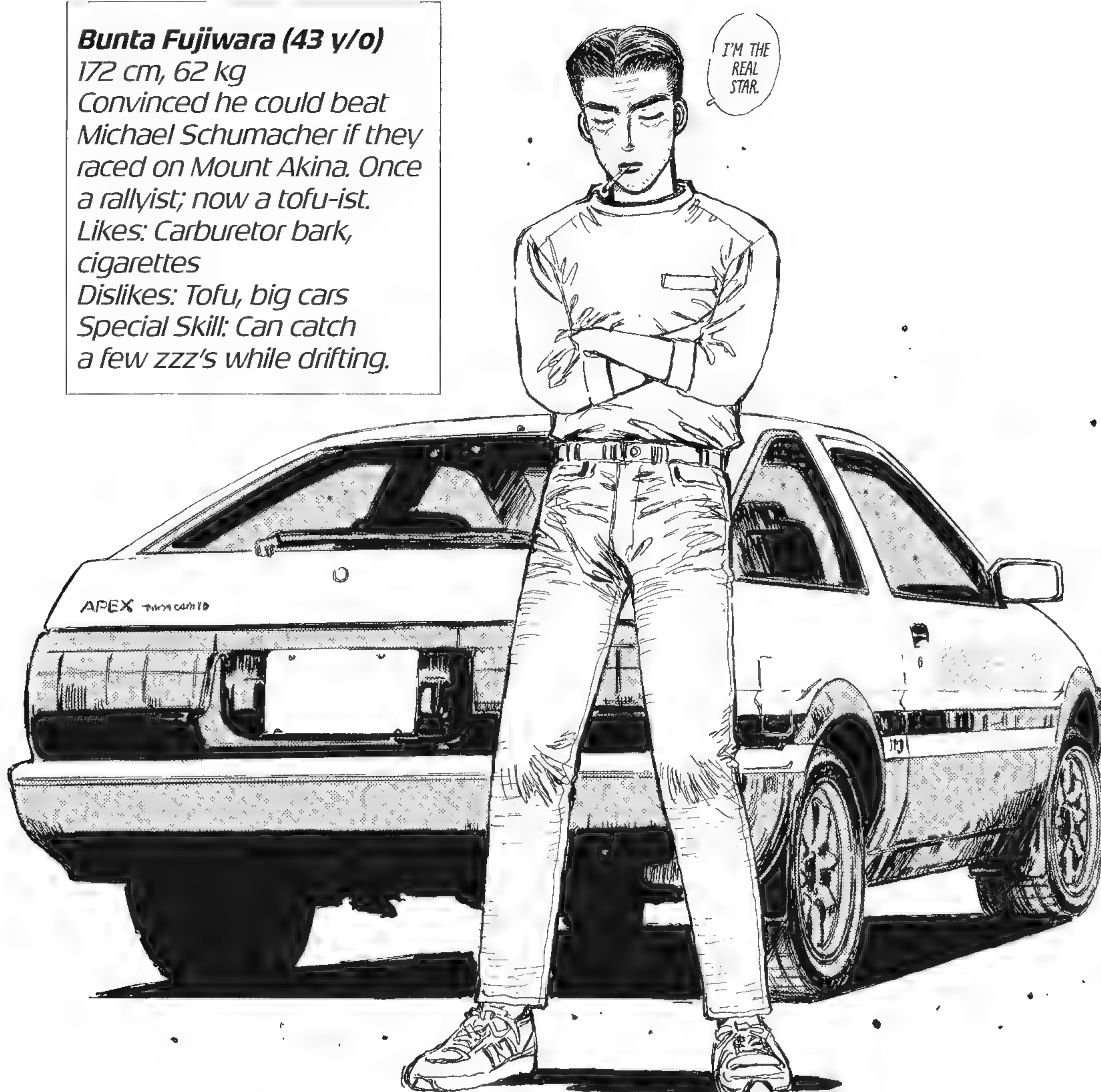
172 cm, 62 kg

Convinced he could beat Michael Schumacher if they raced on Mount Akina. Once a rallyist; now a tofu-ist.

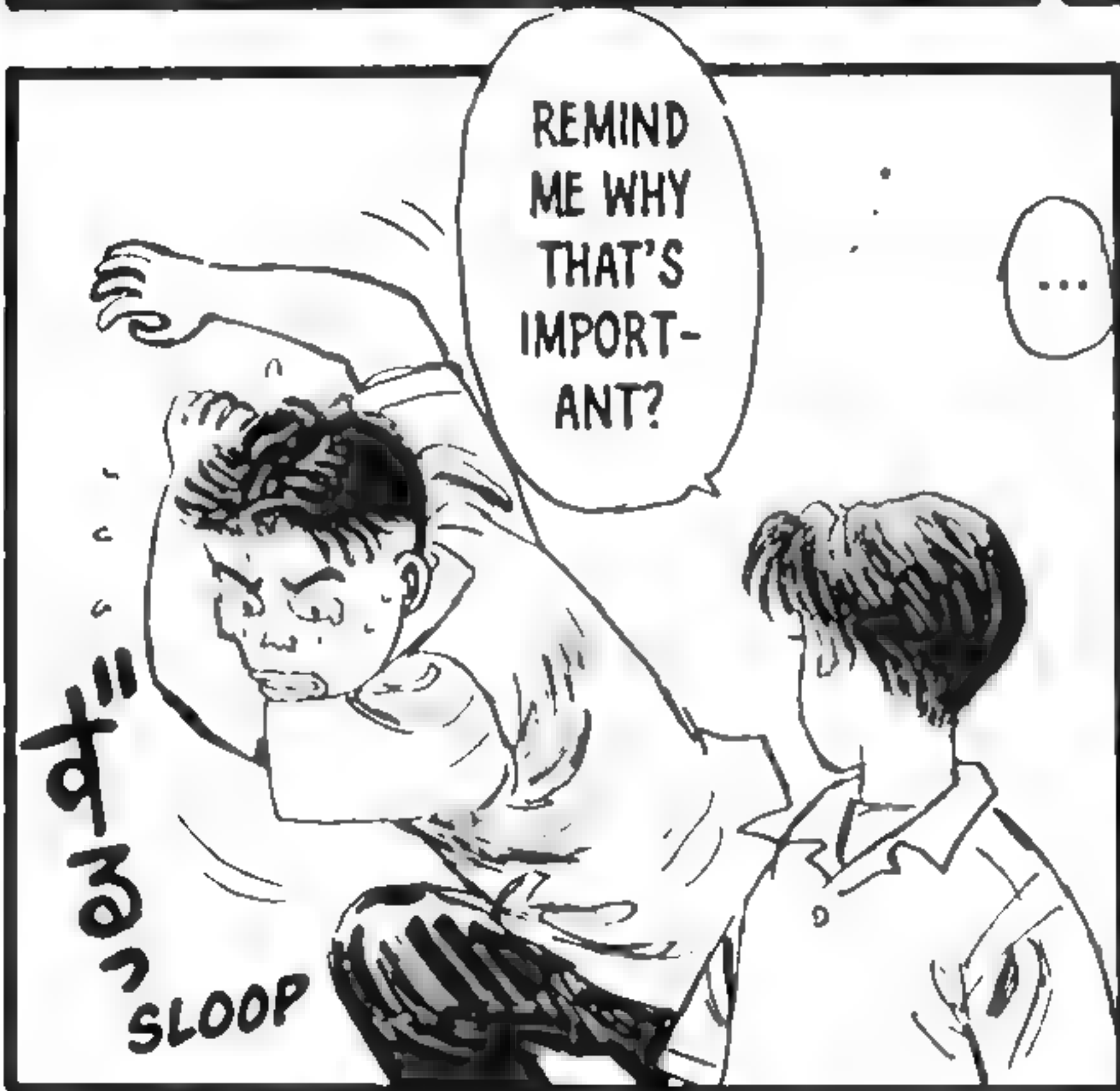
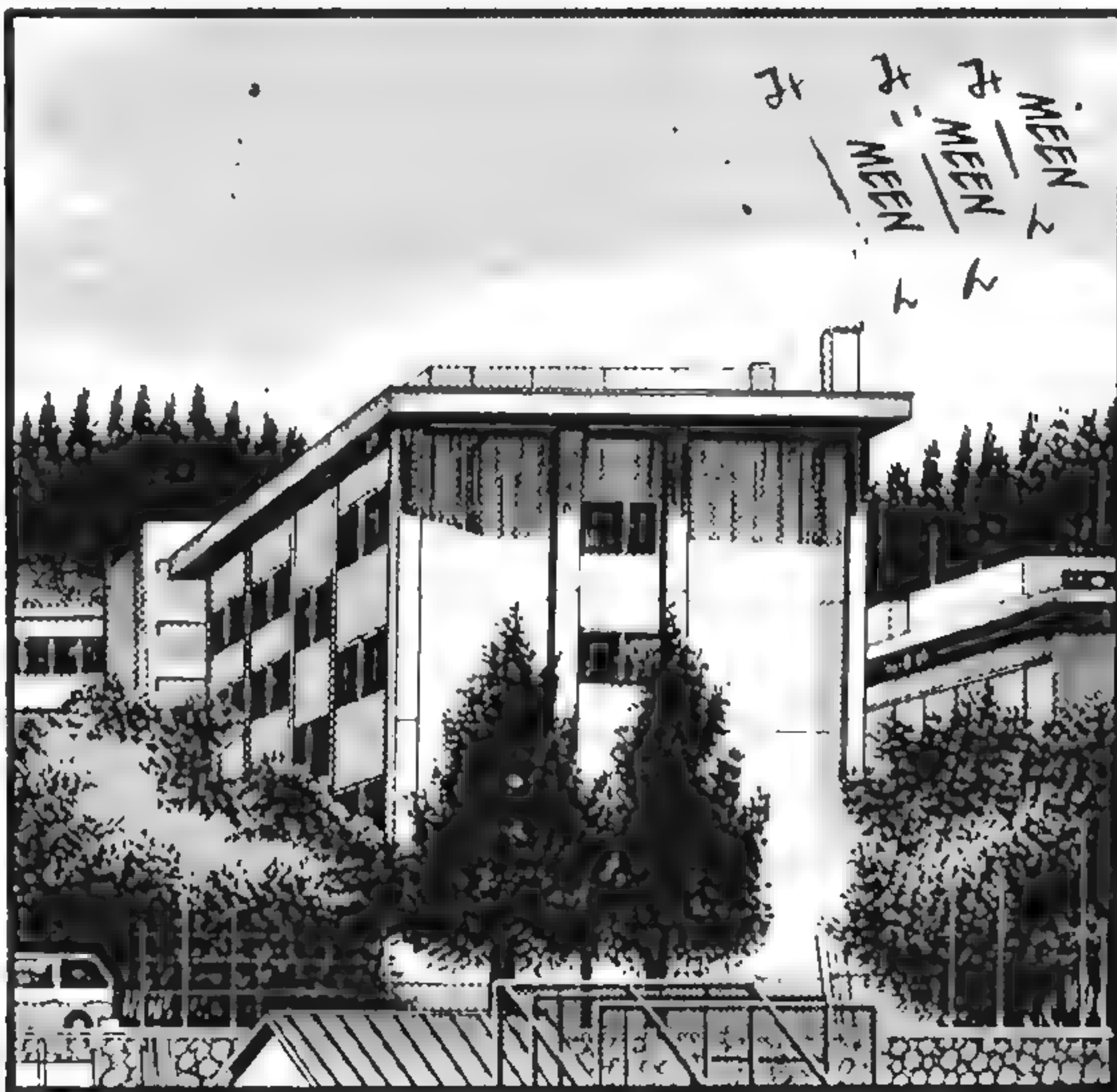
Likes: Carburetor bark, cigarettes

Dislikes: Tofu, big cars

Special Skill: Can catch a few zzz's while drifting.



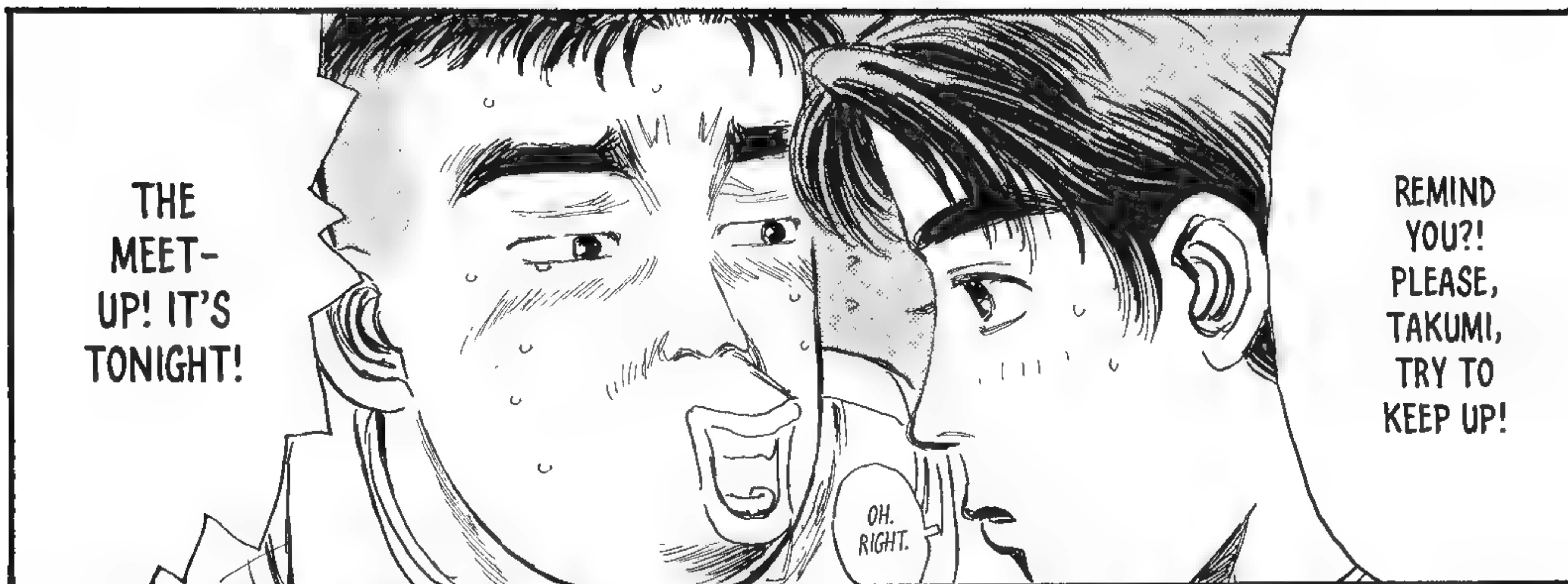




Now that's an overreaction...







THE  
MEET-  
UP! IT'S  
TONIGHT!

REMIND  
YOU?!  
PLEASE,  
TAKUMI,  
TRY TO  
KEEP UP!

OH.  
RIGHT.



YOU'RE NOT  
ABOUT TO BE  
ALL, "BOO  
HOO HOO,  
I'VE GOT  
SOMETHING  
TO DO, AND I  
CAN'T MAKE  
IT!" ARE  
YOU?

OH?  
HOW  
SO?



I  
GUESS IT'S  
GOTTEN  
A LITTLE,  
LIKE, COM-  
PLICATED OR  
WHATEVER.

SO, UH,  
ABOUT  
THAT.



I'VE BEEN  
COUNTING  
THE DAYS  
UNTIL THIS  
MOMENT!

I SURE  
HOPE NOT.  
IF YOU CANCEL  
ON ME NOW,  
I DON'T CARE  
WHAT YOUR  
EXCUSE IS.  
I'M NEVER  
TALKING TO  
YOU AGAIN!



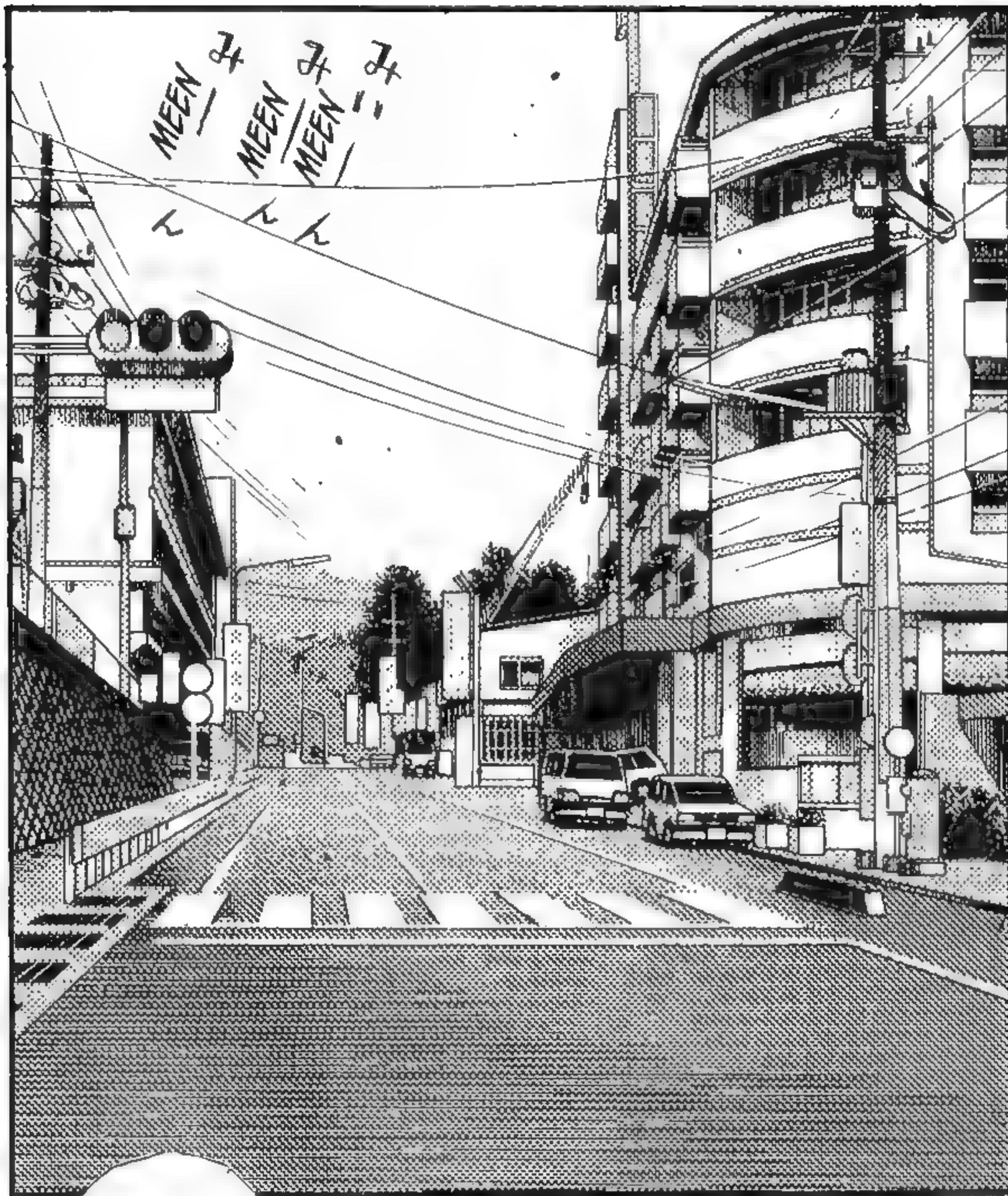
ER...

UH,  
NO. NOT  
EXACTLY.

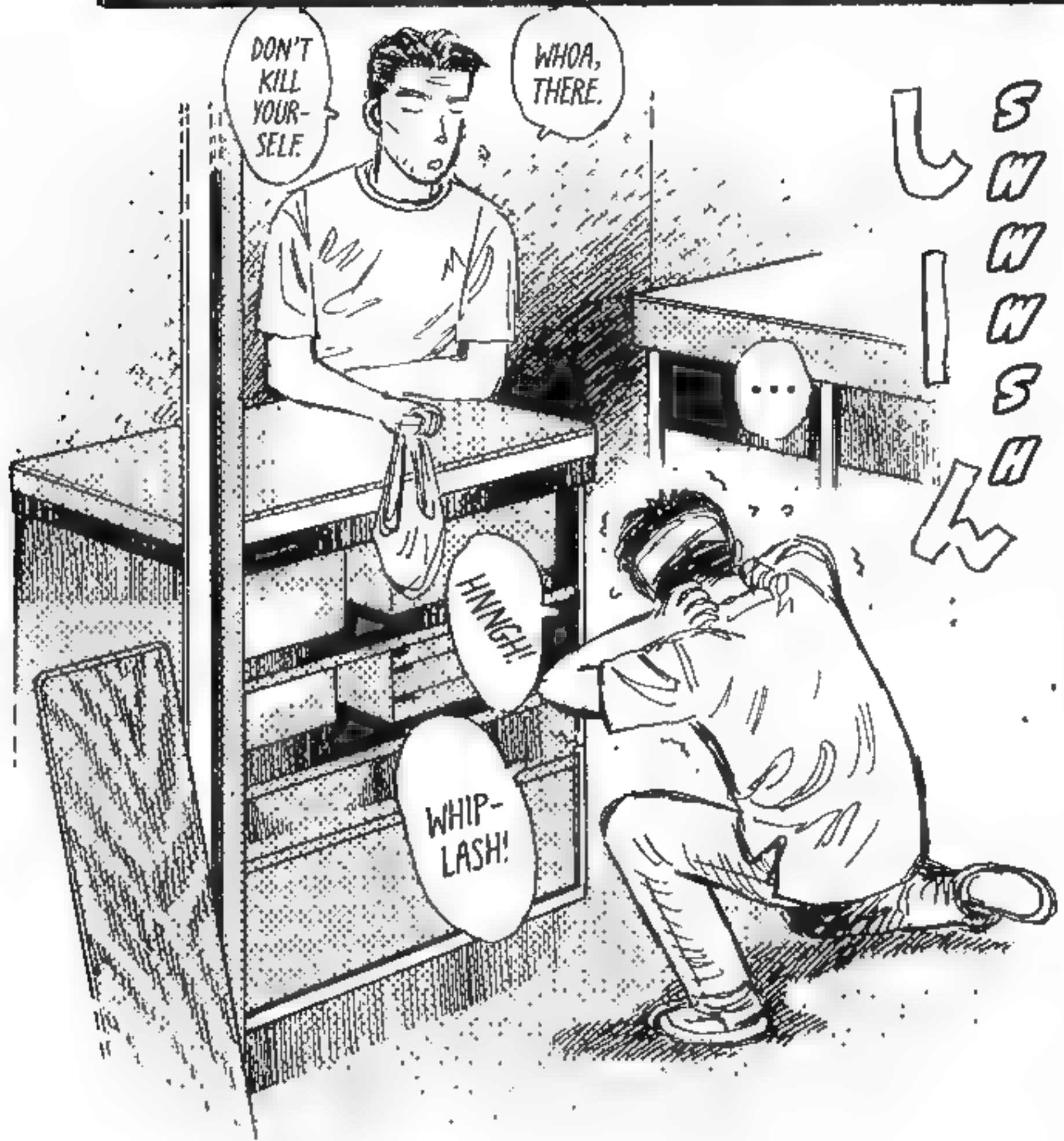
PLEASE  
DON'T GIVE  
ME YOUR  
DEATH  
GLARE.

SCRTCH  
SCRTCH





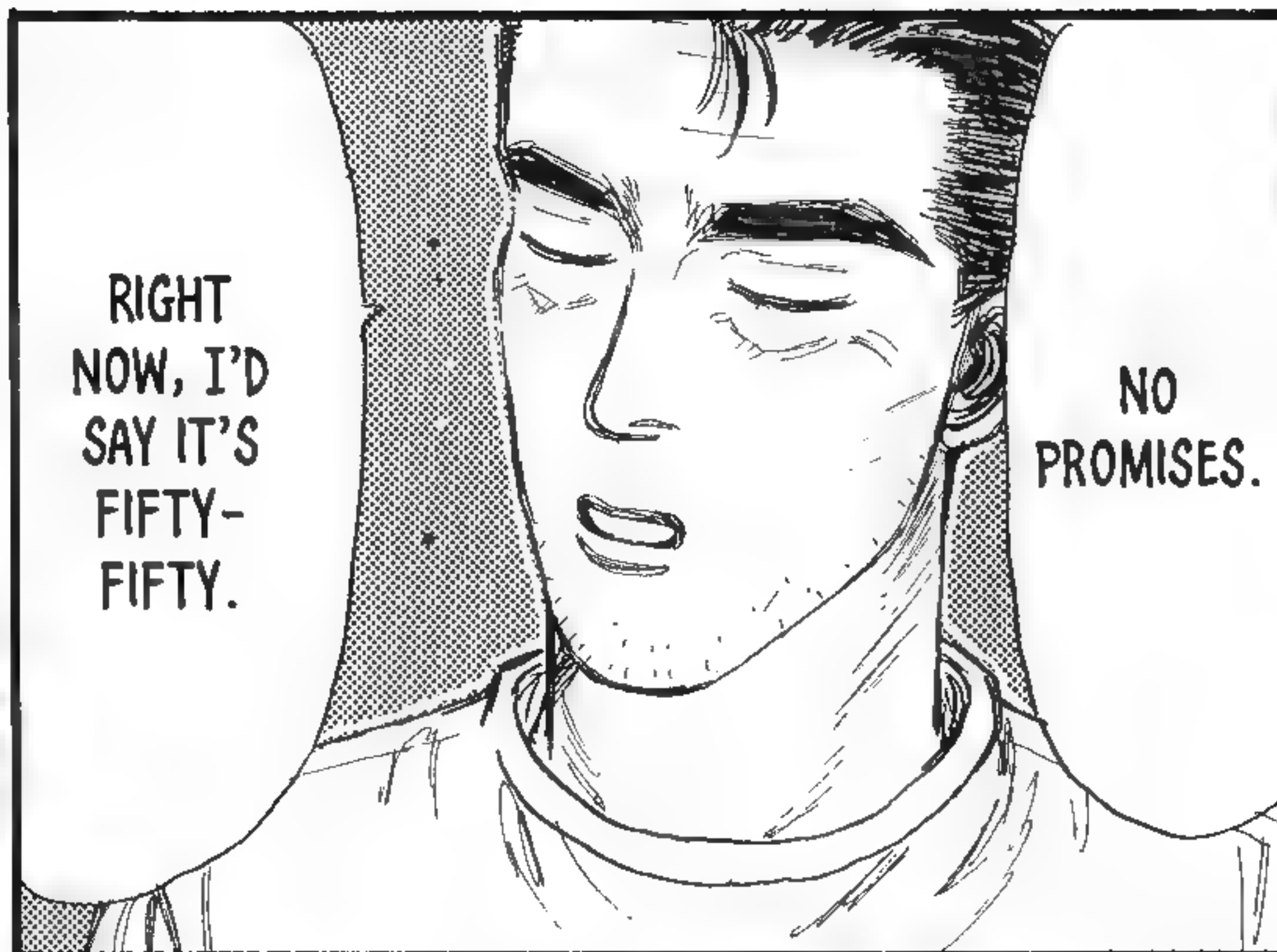






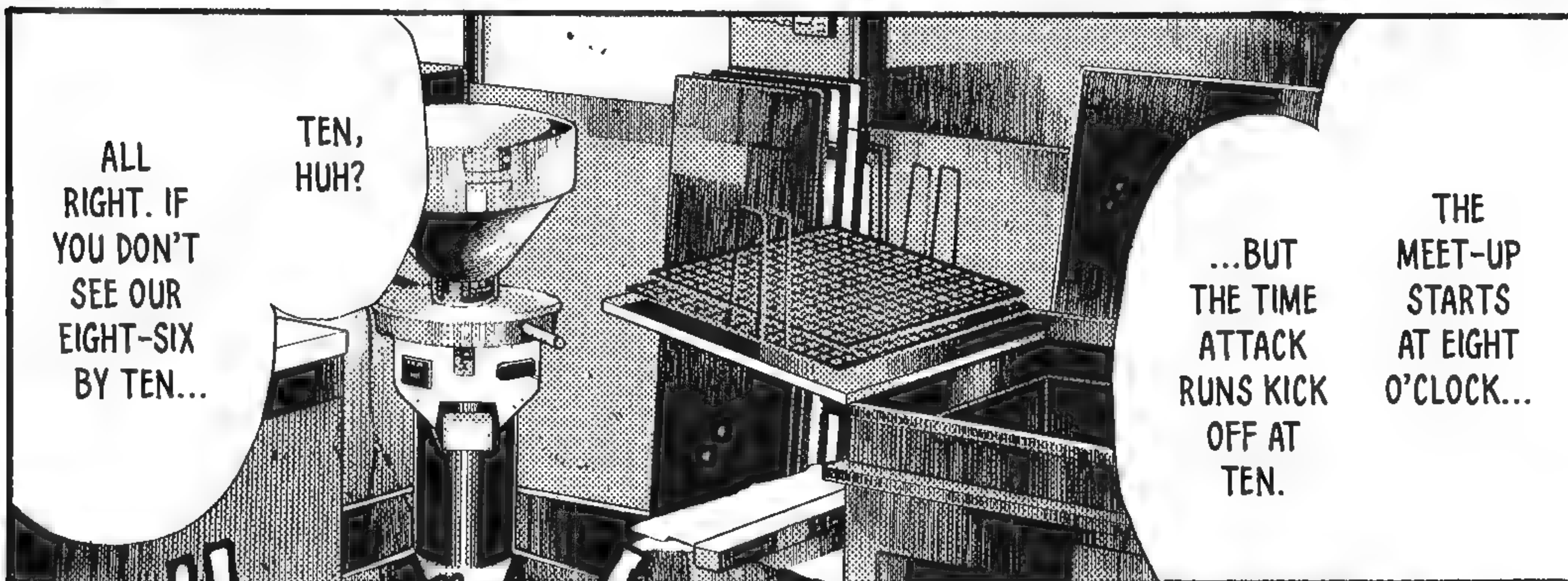


WHEN'S IT  
START?



RIGHT  
NOW, I'D  
SAY IT'S  
FIFTY-  
FIFTY.

NO  
PROMISES.



ALL  
RIGHT. IF  
YOU DON'T  
SEE OUR  
EIGHT-SIX  
BY TEN...

TEN,  
HUH?

...BUT  
THE TIME  
ATTACK  
RUNS KICK  
OFF AT  
TEN.

THE  
MEET-UP  
STARTS  
AT EIGHT  
O'CLOCK...



NO,  
SIR!



I HAVE  
FAITH THAT  
IT'LL BE  
THERE!

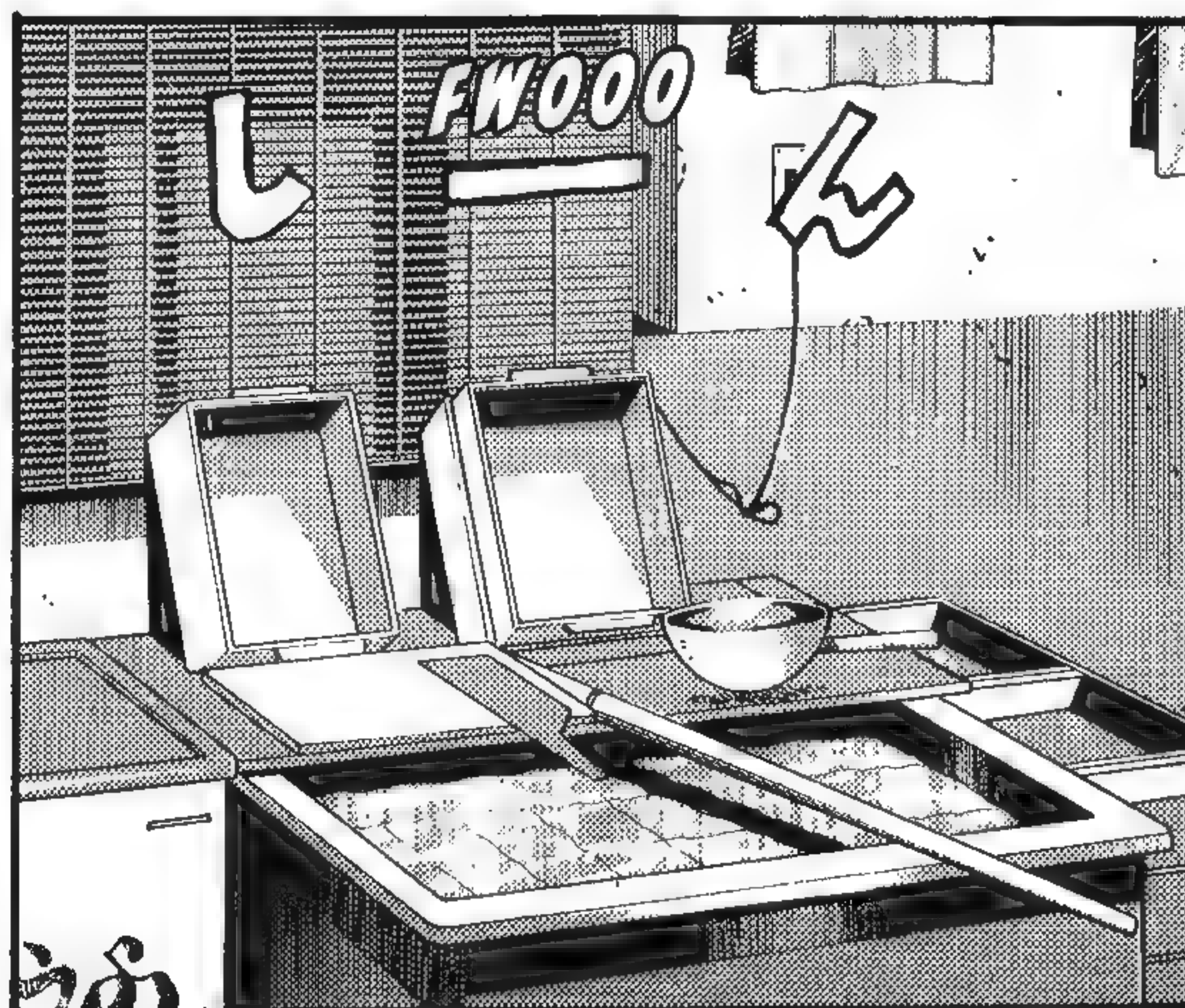
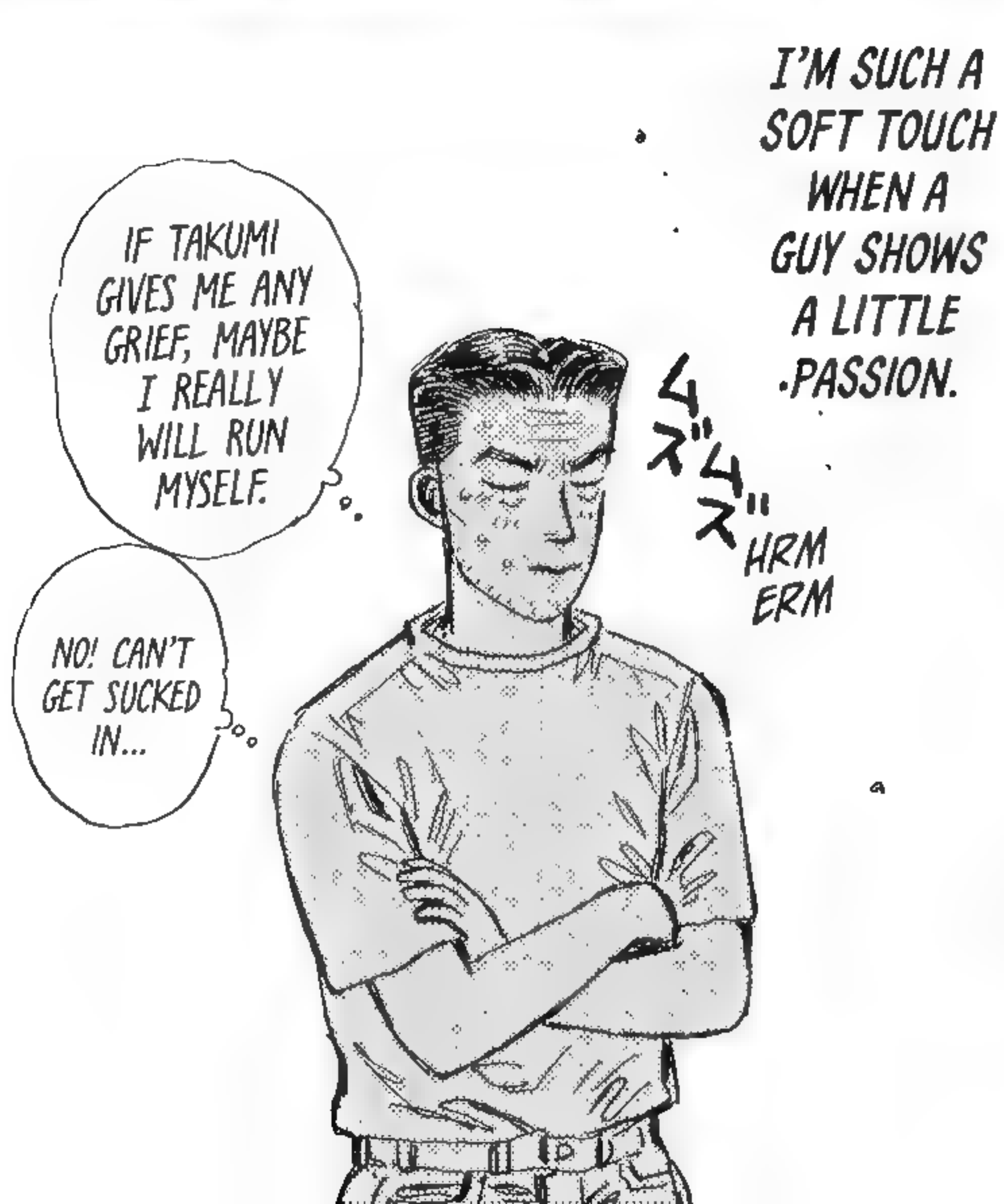
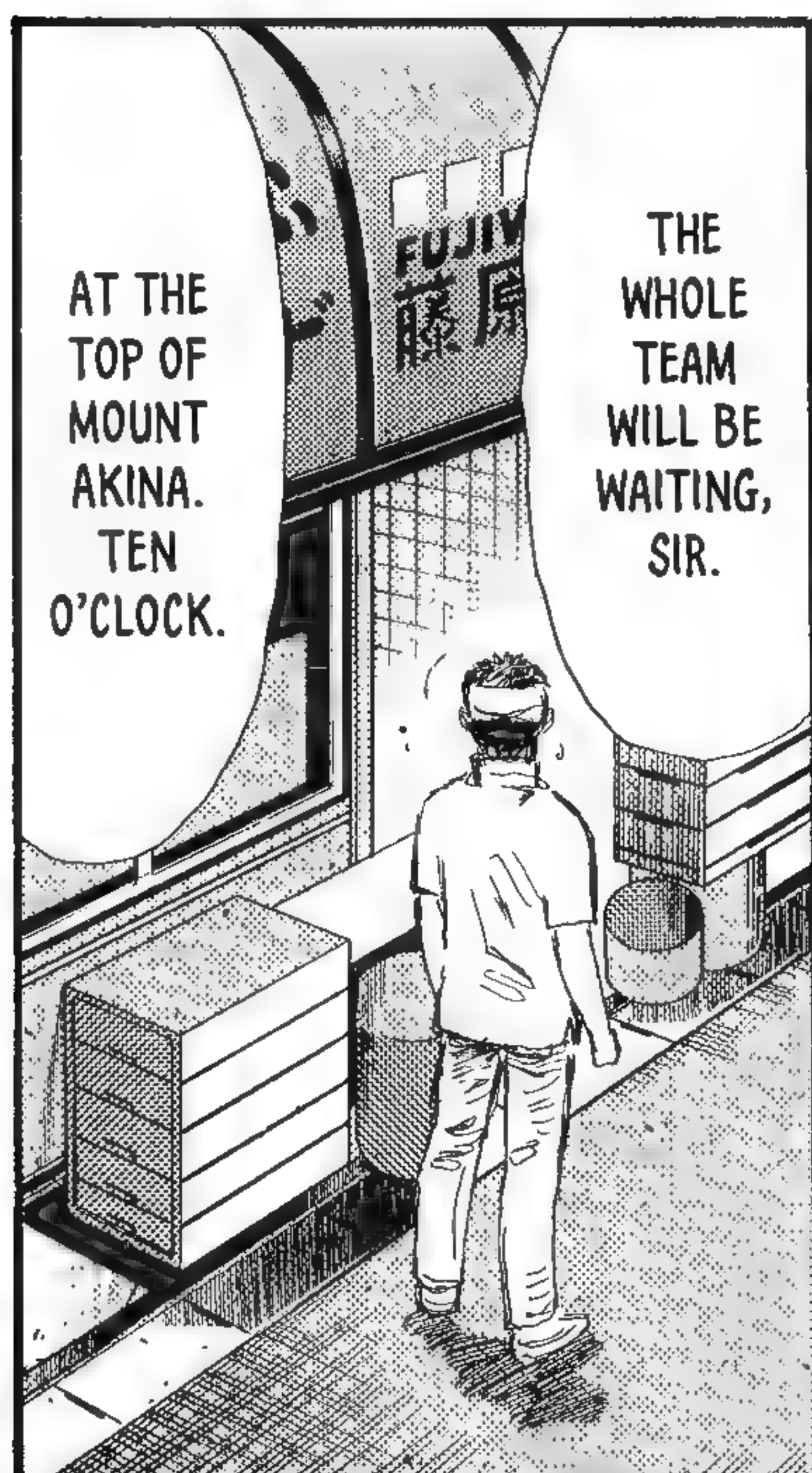
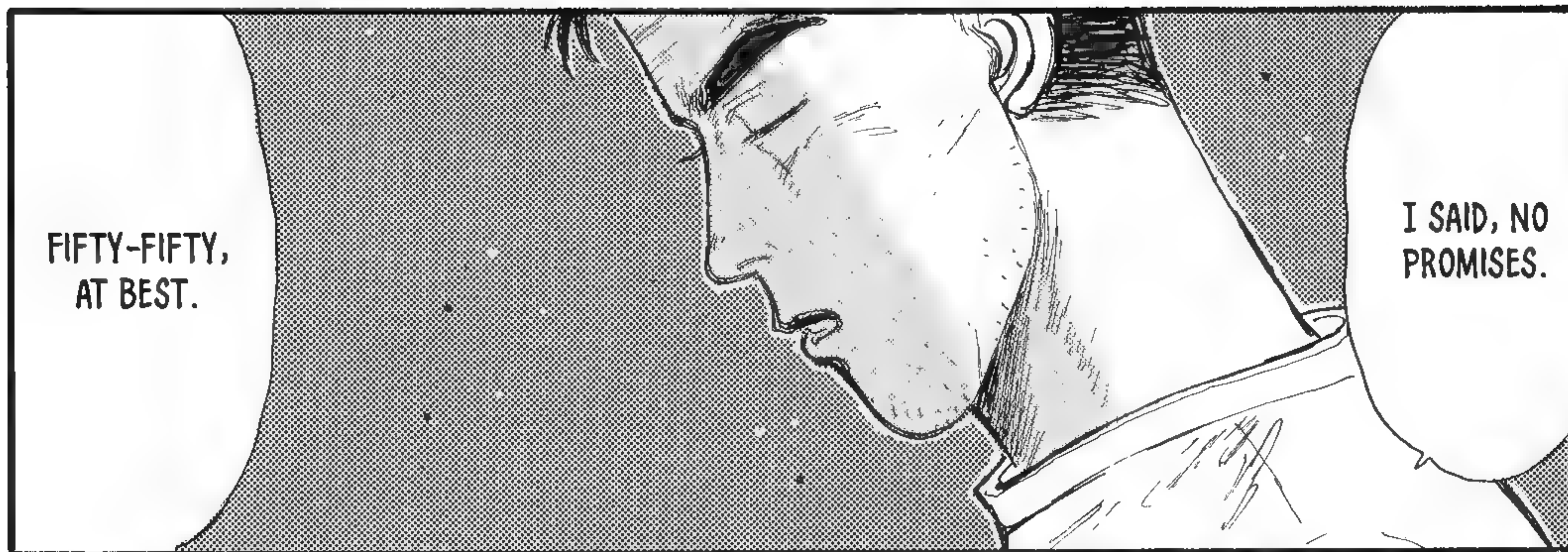
I'LL BE  
WAITING,  
FUJIWARA-  
SAN!



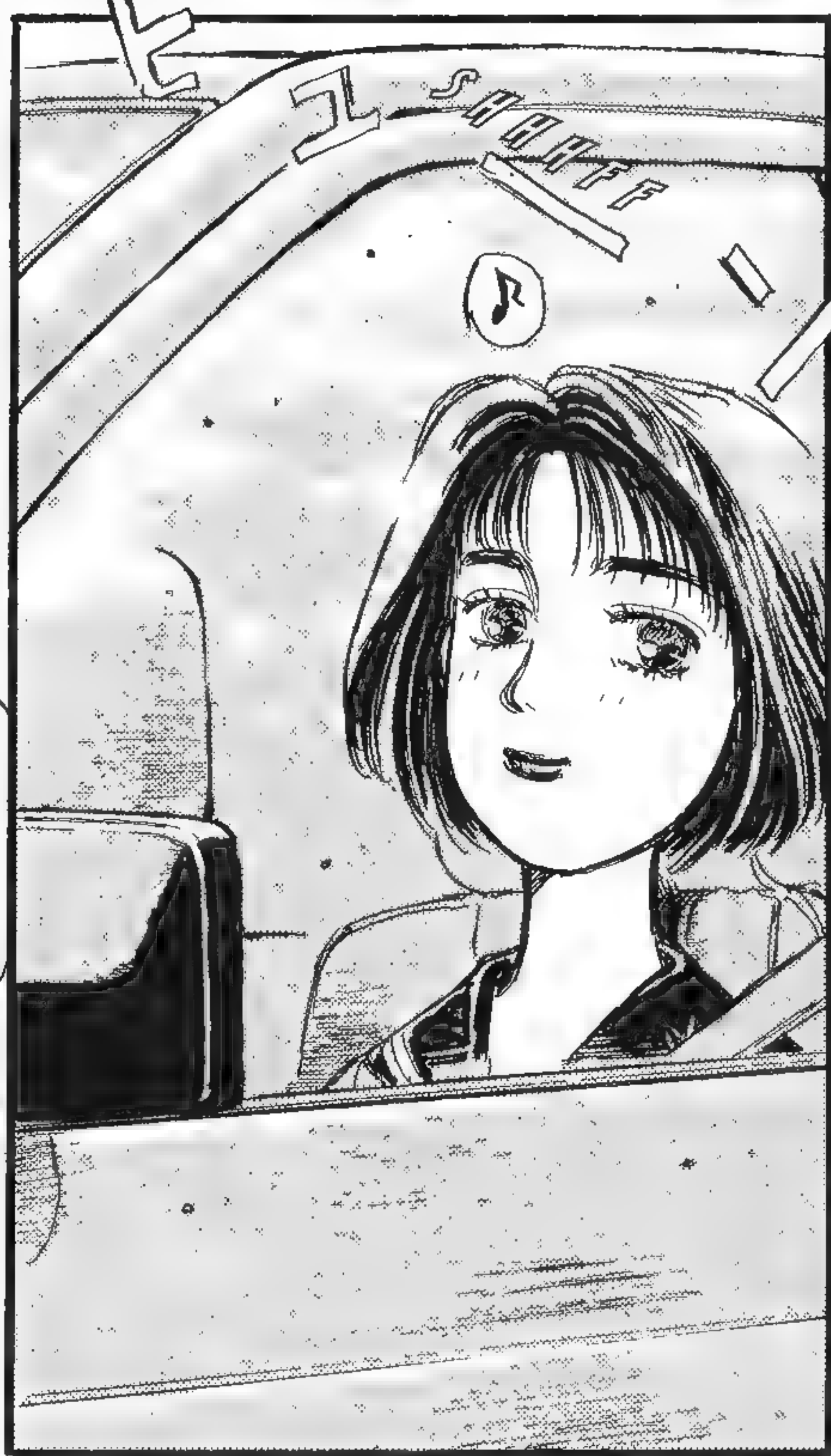
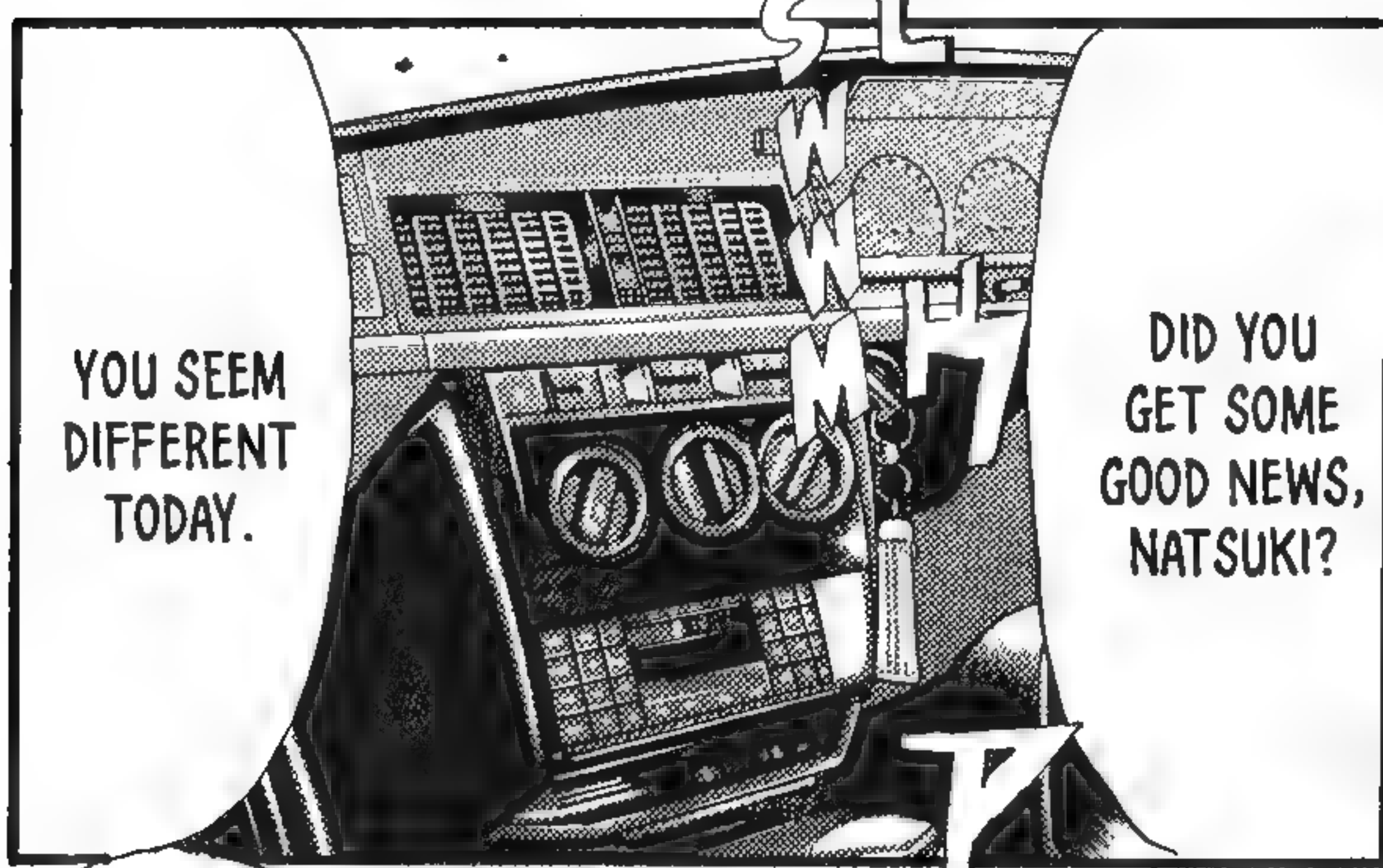
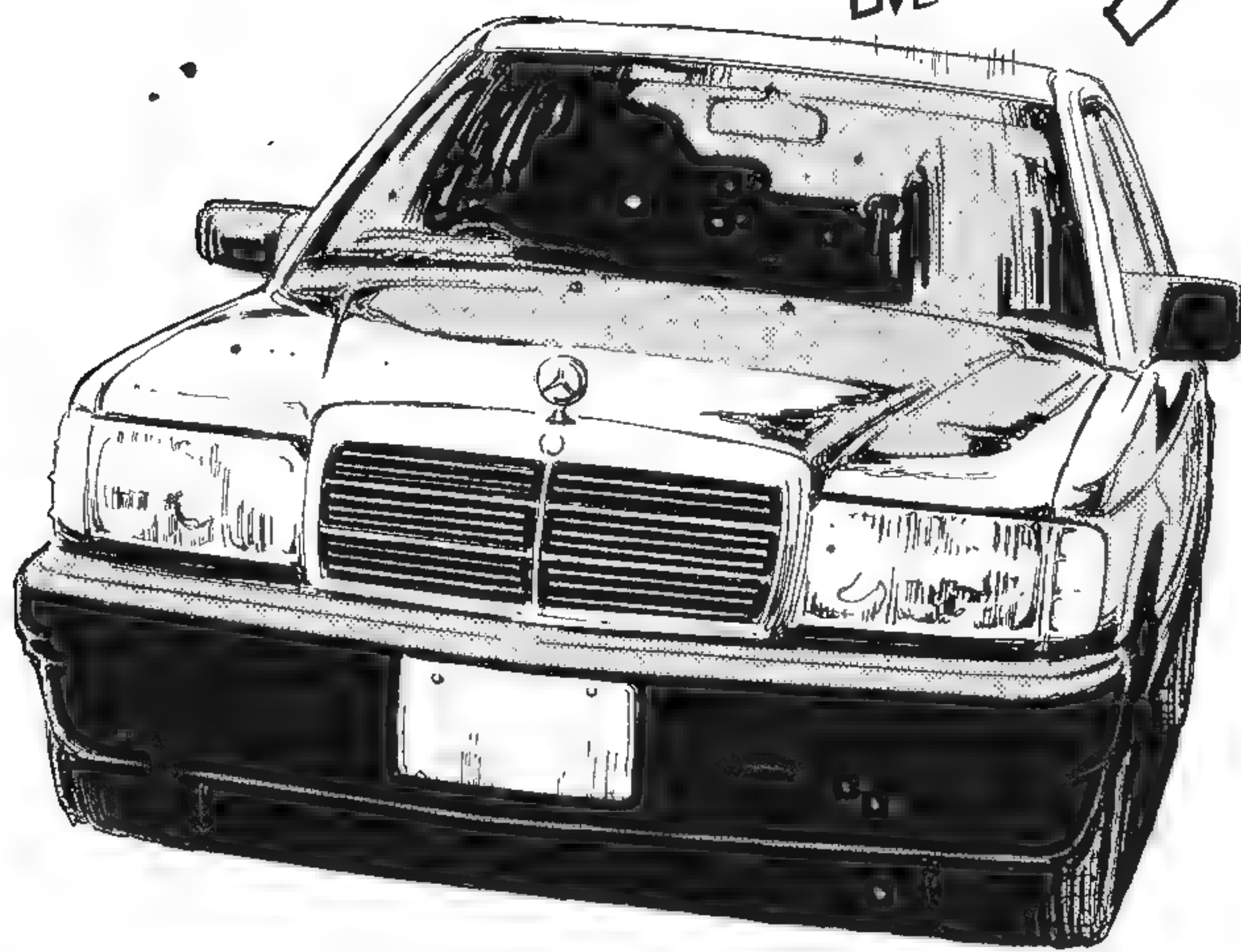
THAT'S  
WHEN YOU'LL  
HAVE TO TAKE  
THINGS INTO  
YOUR OWN  
HANDS.

...THEN  
YOU'LL  
KNOW  
IT'S NOT  
COMING.

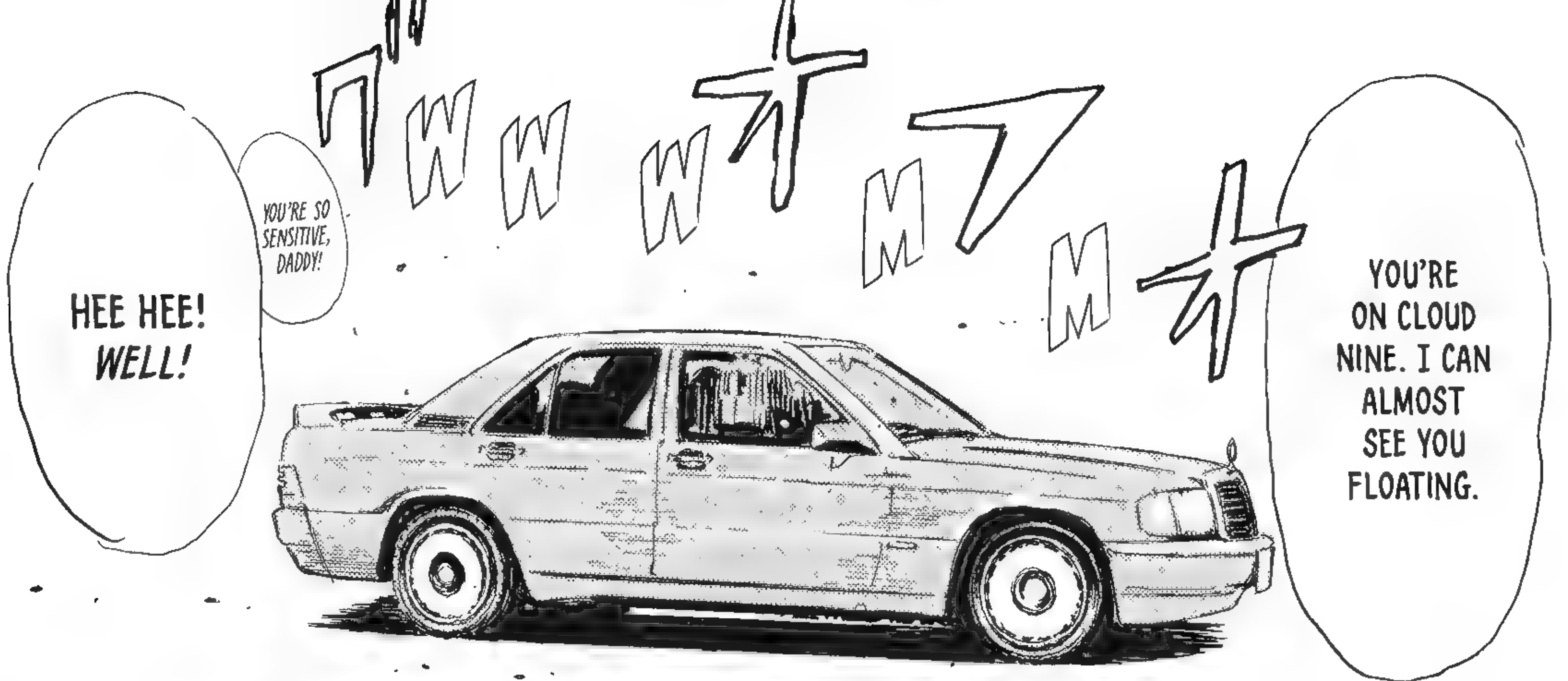












HEE HEE!  
WELL!

YOU'RE SO  
SENSITIVE,  
DADDY!

YOU'RE  
ON CLOUD  
NINE. I CAN  
ALMOST  
SEE YOU  
FLOATING.



HUH? NO!  
IT'S A GIRL,  
OBVIOUSLY!

THIS  
FRIEND  
OF  
YOURS...  
IS IT A  
BOY?



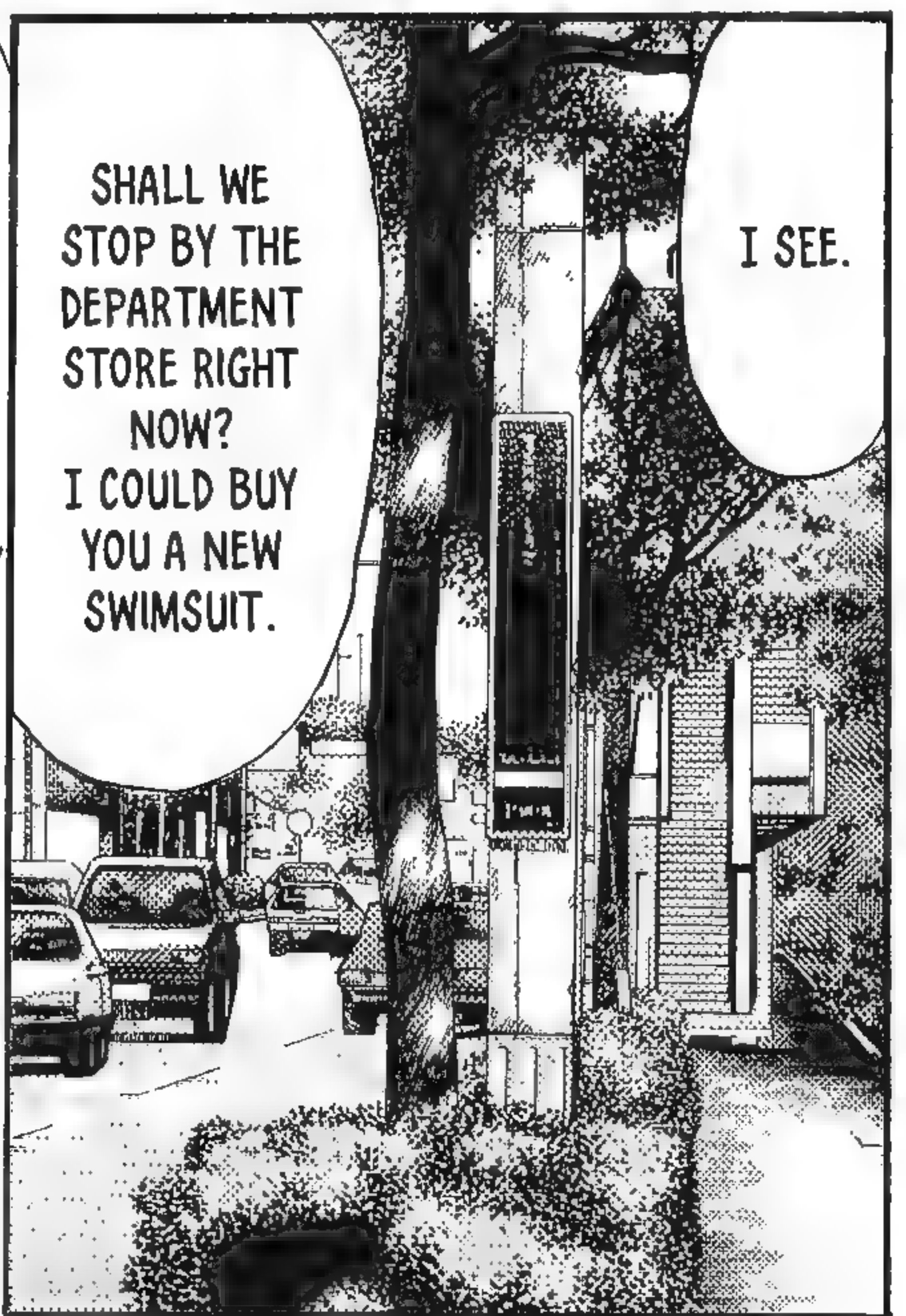
I CAN'T  
WAIT!

A FRIEND  
AND I ARE  
GOING TO  
THE BEACH  
TOMORROW.



AND  
I DON'T  
NEED TWO  
SWIMSUITS!

OH,  
PLEASE,  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO!  
I BOUGHT  
ONE  
MYSELF!



SHALL WE  
STOP BY THE  
DEPARTMENT  
STORE RIGHT  
NOW?  
I COULD BUY  
YOU A NEW  
SWIMSUIT.

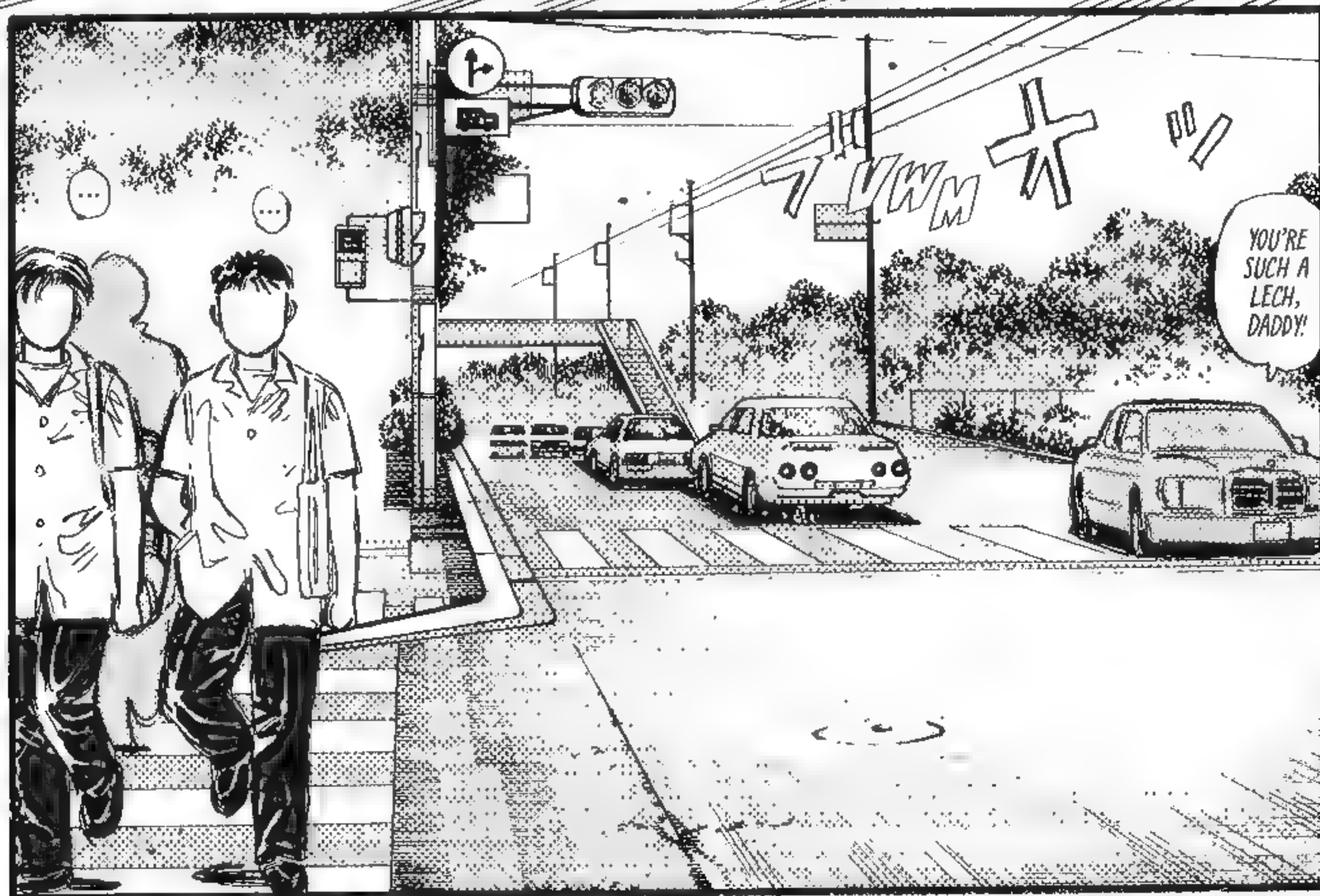
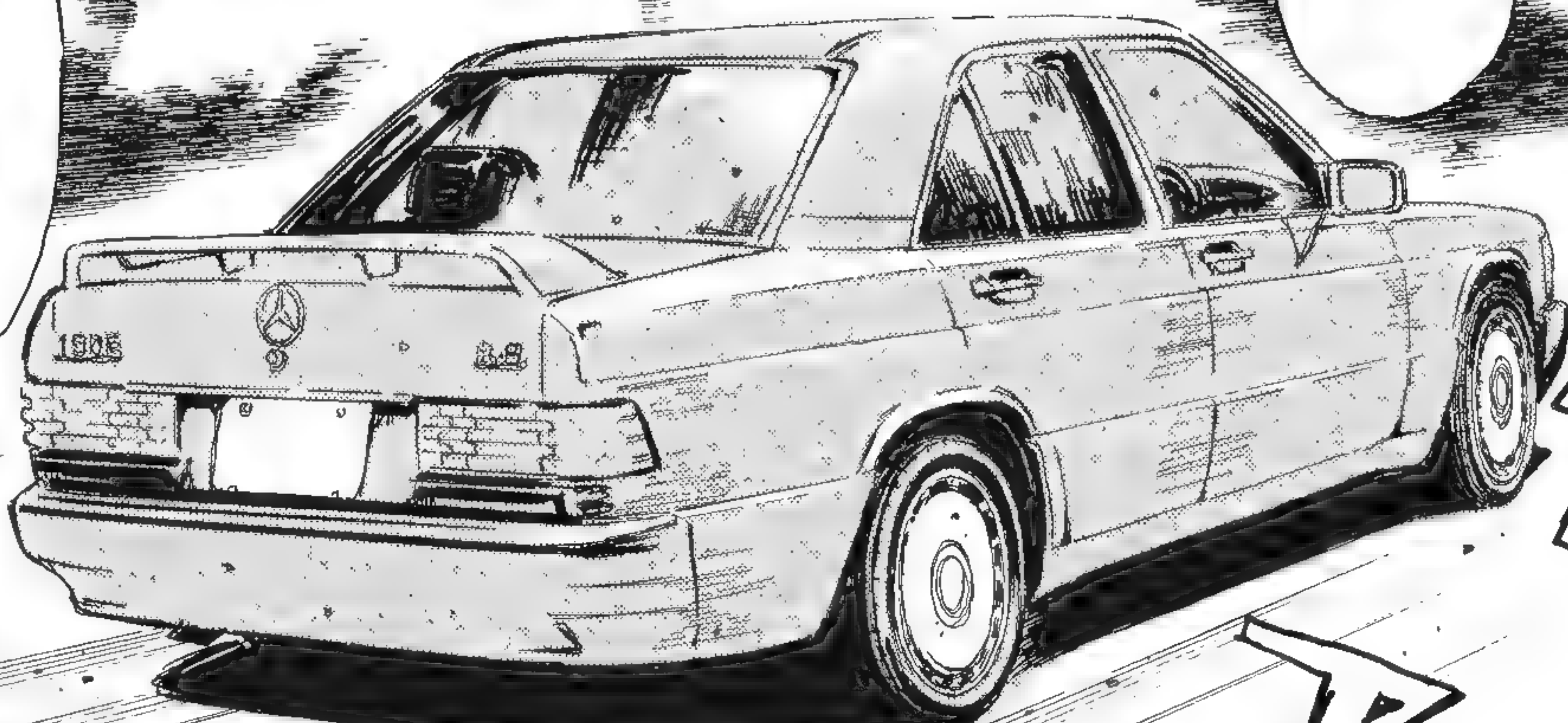
I SEE.



I HOPE  
I GET TO  
SEE HOW  
YOU LOOK  
IN YOUR  
SWIMSUIT  
ONE DAY,  
MY DEAR.

SHWOOM

NO? AH,  
WELL.



WHY  
WOULD YOU  
WANT TO  
SEE THAT?

YOU'RE  
FUNNY!

WHAT?

YOU'VE  
ALREADY  
SEEN  
EVERY-  
THING...

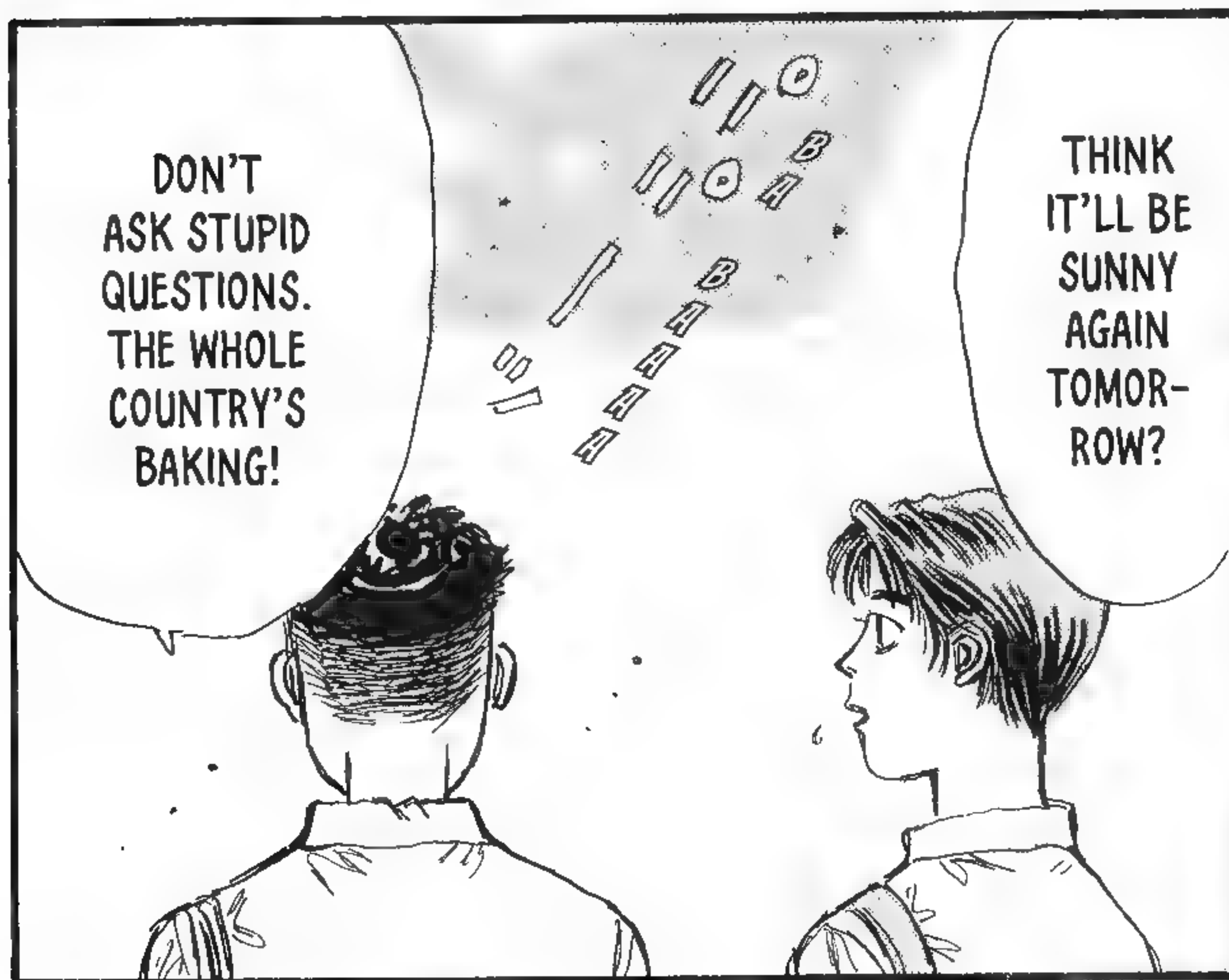
DON'T  
ASK STUPID  
QUESTIONS.  
THE WHOLE  
COUNTRY'S  
BAKING!

U I O B  
U I O B  
U I O B

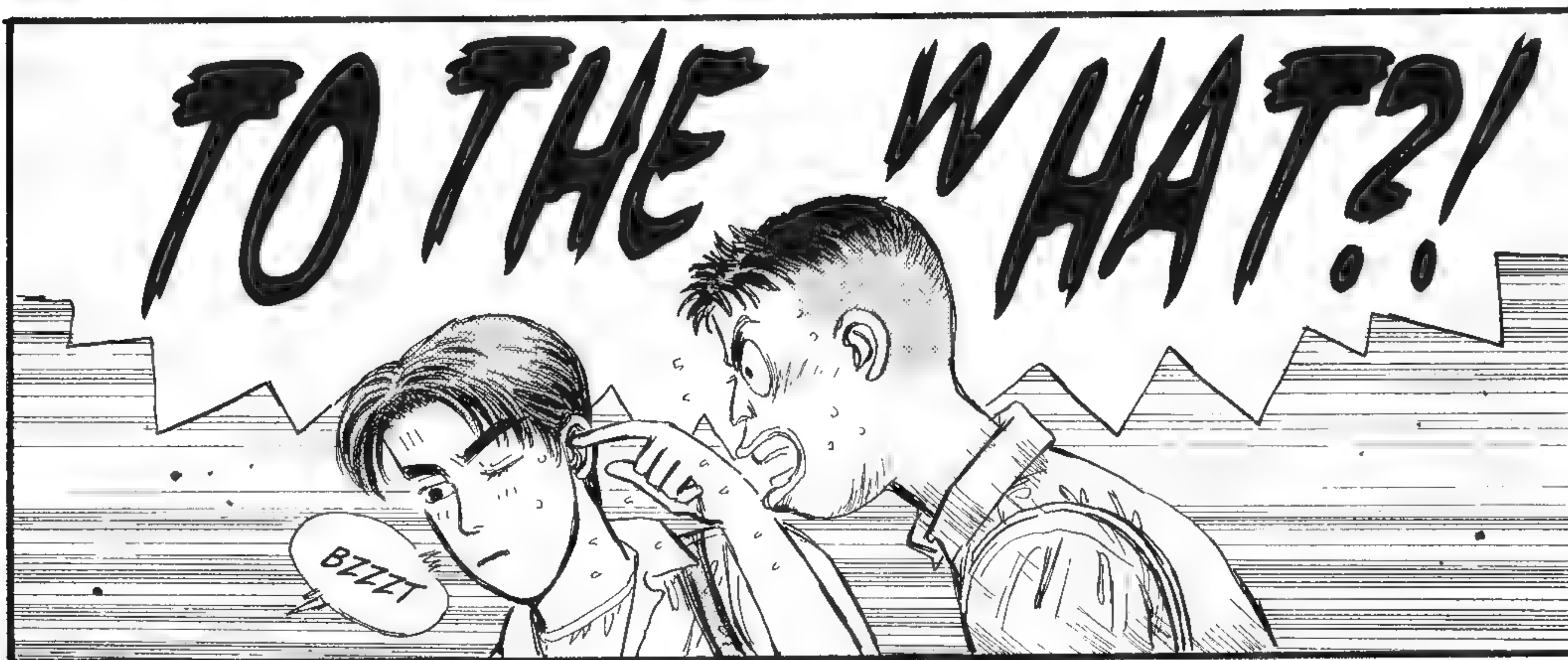
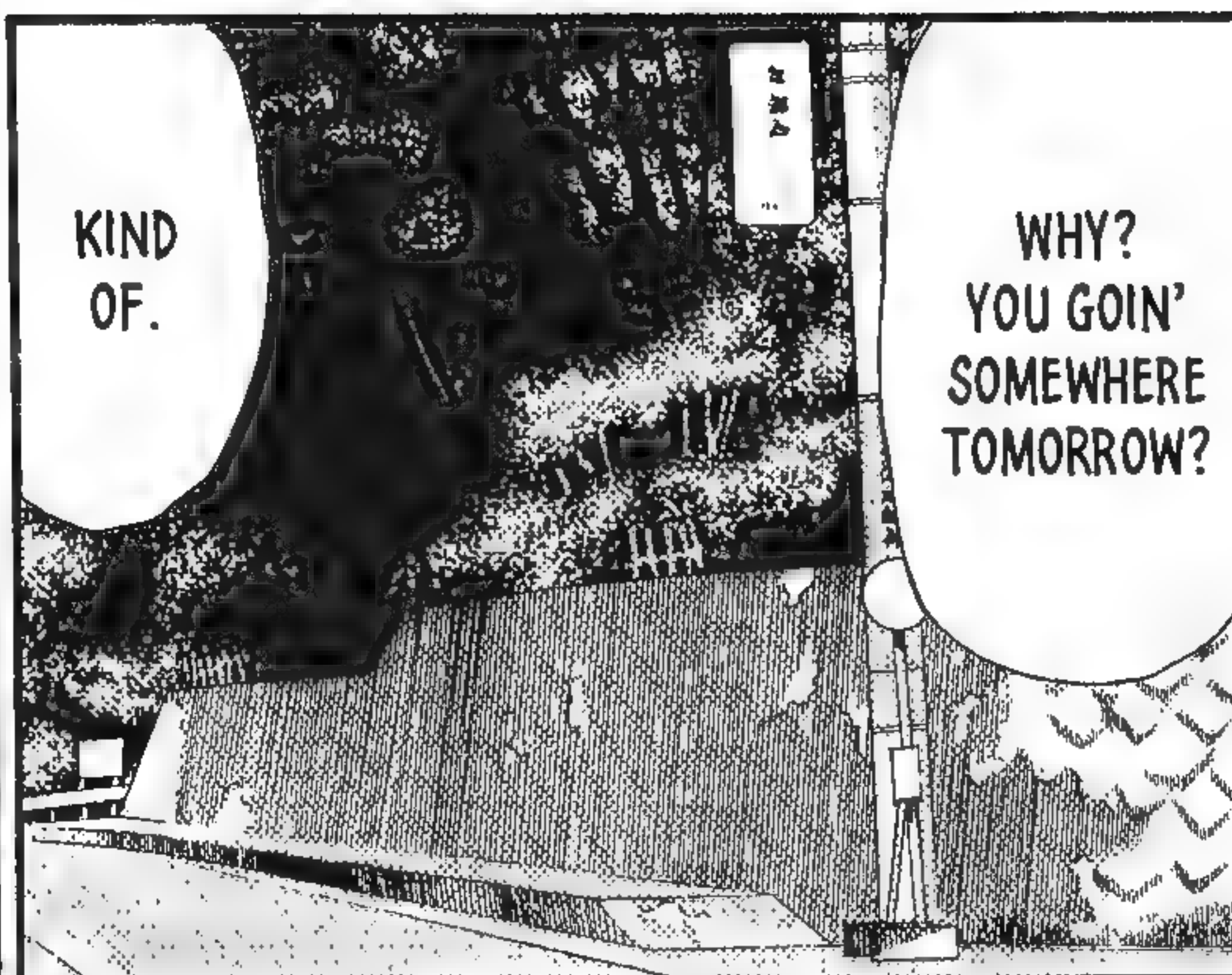
THINK  
IT'LL BE  
SUNNY  
AGAIN  
TOMOR-  
ROW?

BAKE BAKE

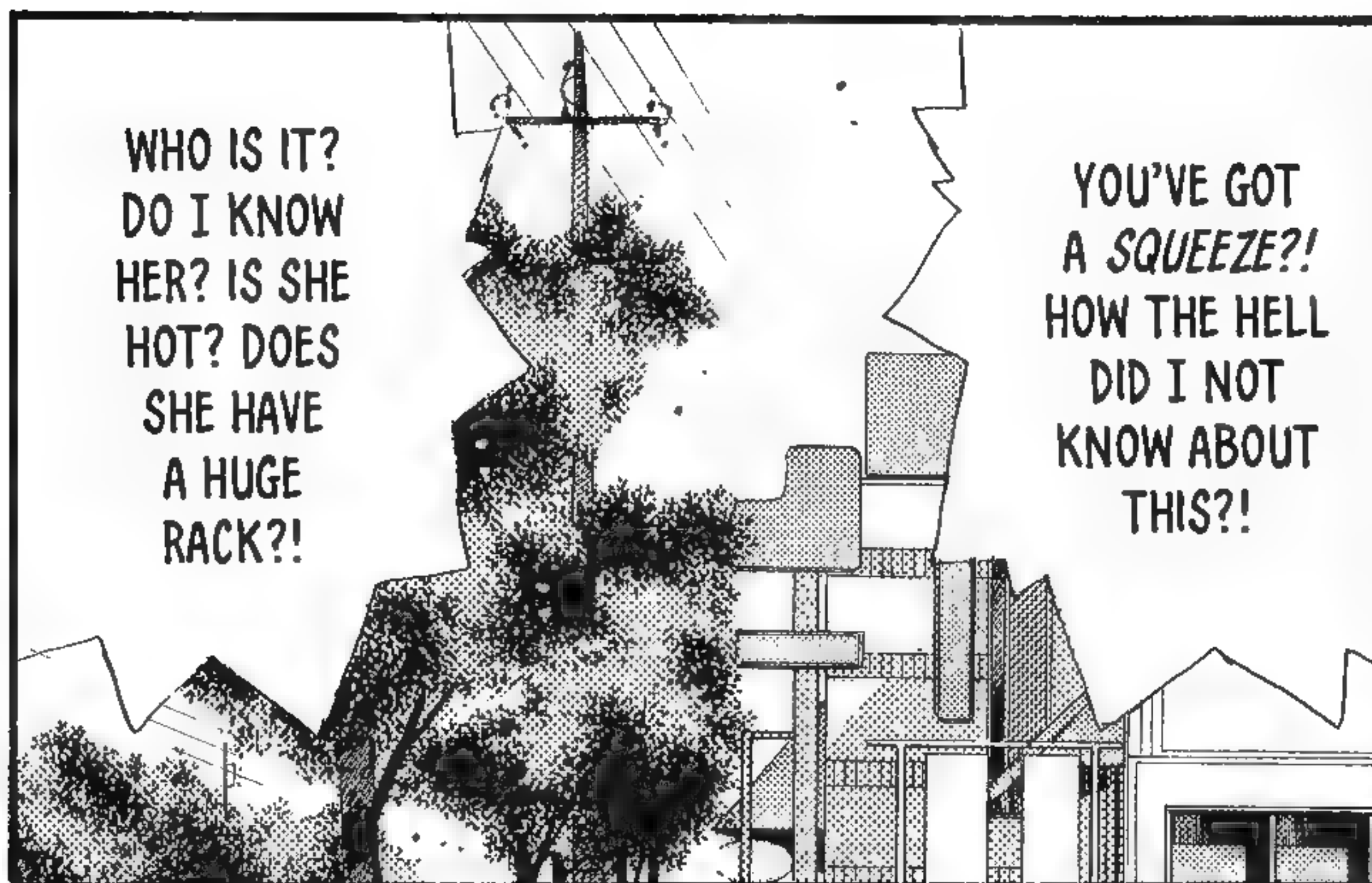
UGH! YOU  
COULD FRY  
AN EGG  
ON THE  
SIDEWALK  
TODAY!





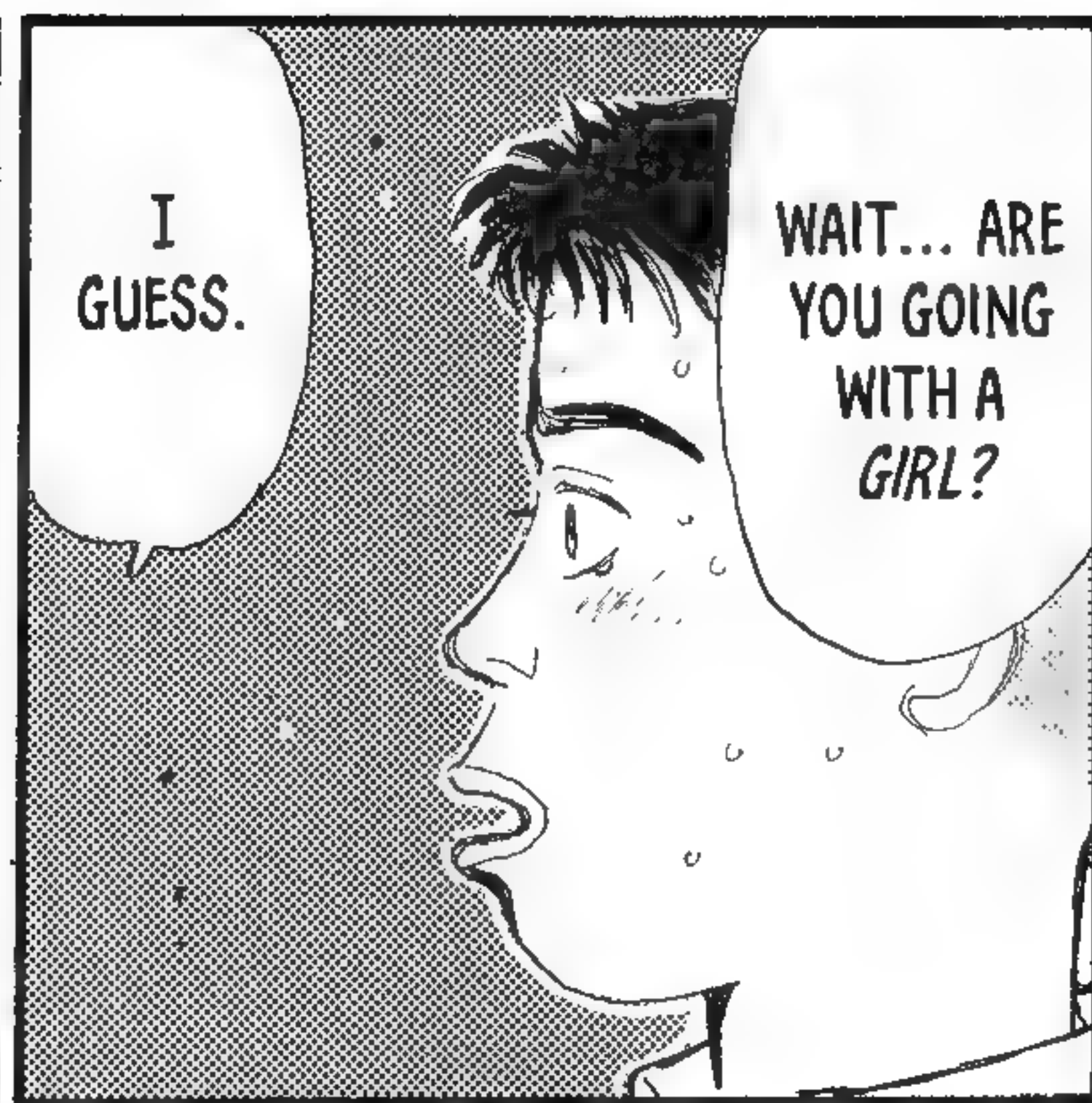






WHO IS IT?  
DO I KNOW  
HER? IS SHE  
HOT? DOES  
SHE HAVE  
A HUGE  
RACK?!

YOU'VE GOT  
A *SQUEEZE*?!  
HOW THE HELL  
DID I NOT  
KNOW ABOUT  
THIS?!



I  
GUESS.

WAIT... ARE  
YOU GOING  
WITH A  
*GIRL*?



SERIOUSLY,  
ITSUKI,  
KEEP IT  
TOGETHER.

QUIVER  
3.3  
3

QUIVER  
3.3  
3

BUT  
YEAH...  
LET'S  
SAY SHE'S  
PRETTY  
CUTE.

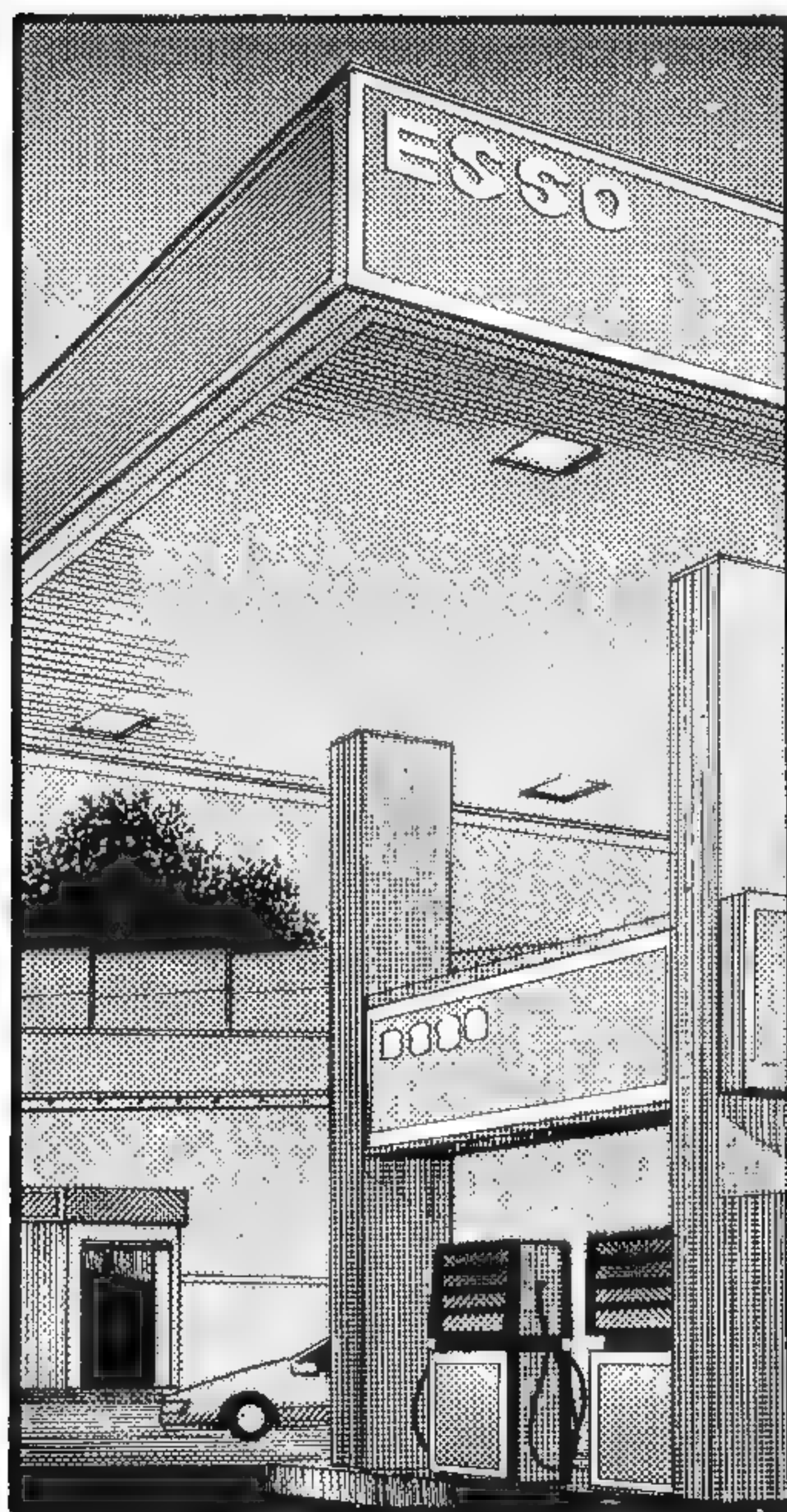


LOOK AT  
ME ON  
MY HIGH  
HORSE.

I CAN'T  
GIVE YOU  
A LOT OF,  
YOU KNOW,  
DETAILS  
RIGHT  
NOW.

GRIN  
GRIN  
3.3  
3

EVEN I  
DON'T LIKE  
ME RIGHT  
NOW.







IT'S  
GONNA  
BE SOME  
NIGHT UP  
THERE  
TONIGHT.

THERE'S BEEN  
A PARADE OF  
MEAN-LOOKING  
CARS HEADING  
UP AKINA.



HUH!  
THREE  
MORE  
OF  
'EM.



TO BE FAIR,  
MOST OF 'EM  
ARE PROBABLY  
HERE FOR  
THE FAMOUS  
TAKAHASHI  
BROTHERS.

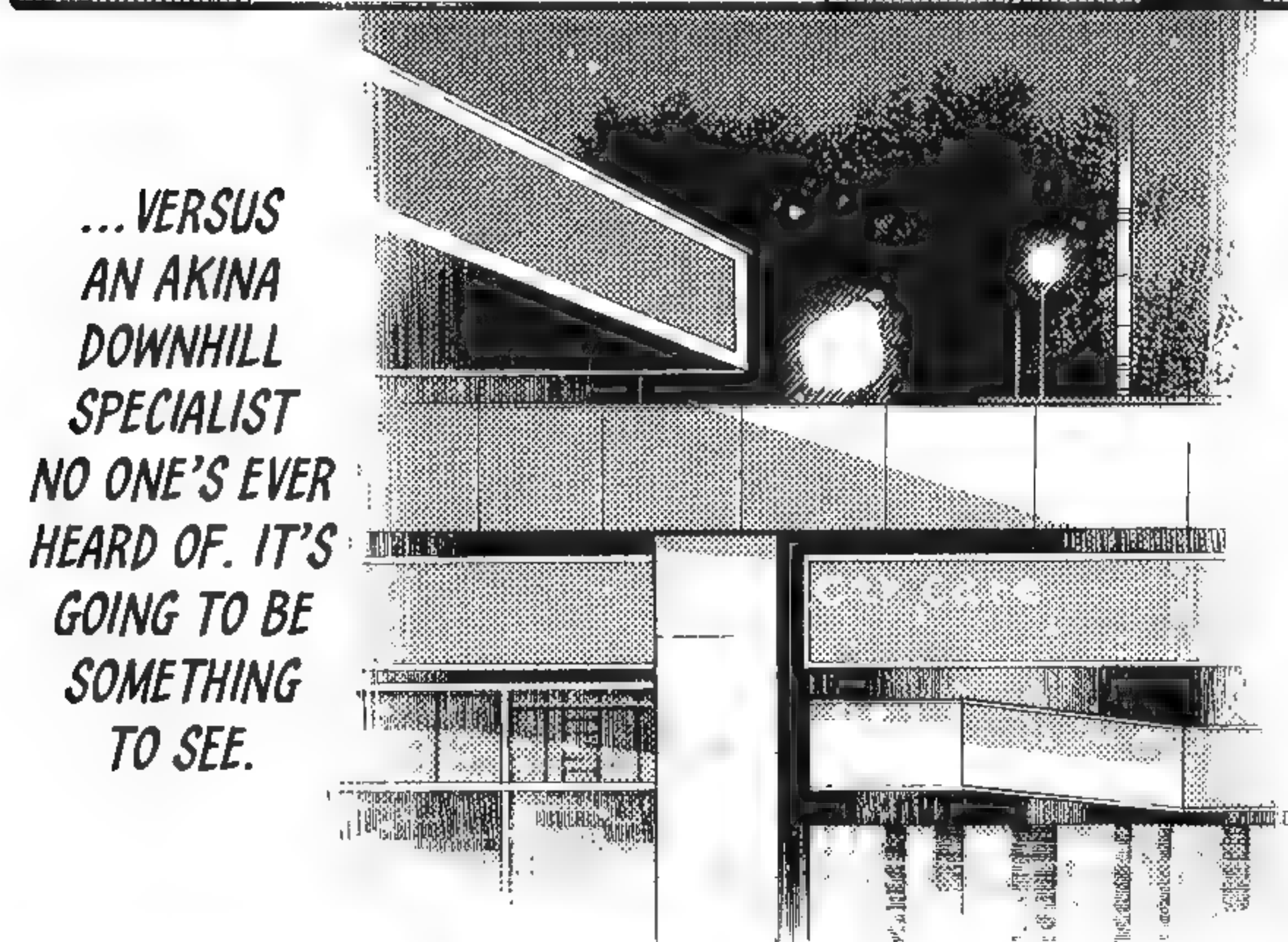
WORD'S  
GOTTEN AROUND  
ABOUT IKETANI'S  
CREW FACING THE  
FASTEST DRIVERS  
FROM AKAGI.





IT'S BEEN  
A LONG TIME...  
MAYBE I'LL  
SNEAK INTO THE  
CROWD LATER,  
GET A LITTLE  
LOOK, MYSELF.

HELL,  
EVEN I  
FEEL MY  
BLOOD  
STIRRING.



...VERSUS  
AN AKINA  
DOWNHILL  
SPECIALIST  
NO ONE'S EVER  
HEARD OF. IT'S  
GOING TO BE  
SOMETHING  
TO SEE.

AKAGI'S  
LIGHT-  
SPEED  
RX-7...



BECAUSE  
TAKUMI'S  
EIGHT-SIX  
IS BUNTA'S  
EIGHT-SIX!

NOT  
THAT  
HE'LL  
LOSE.





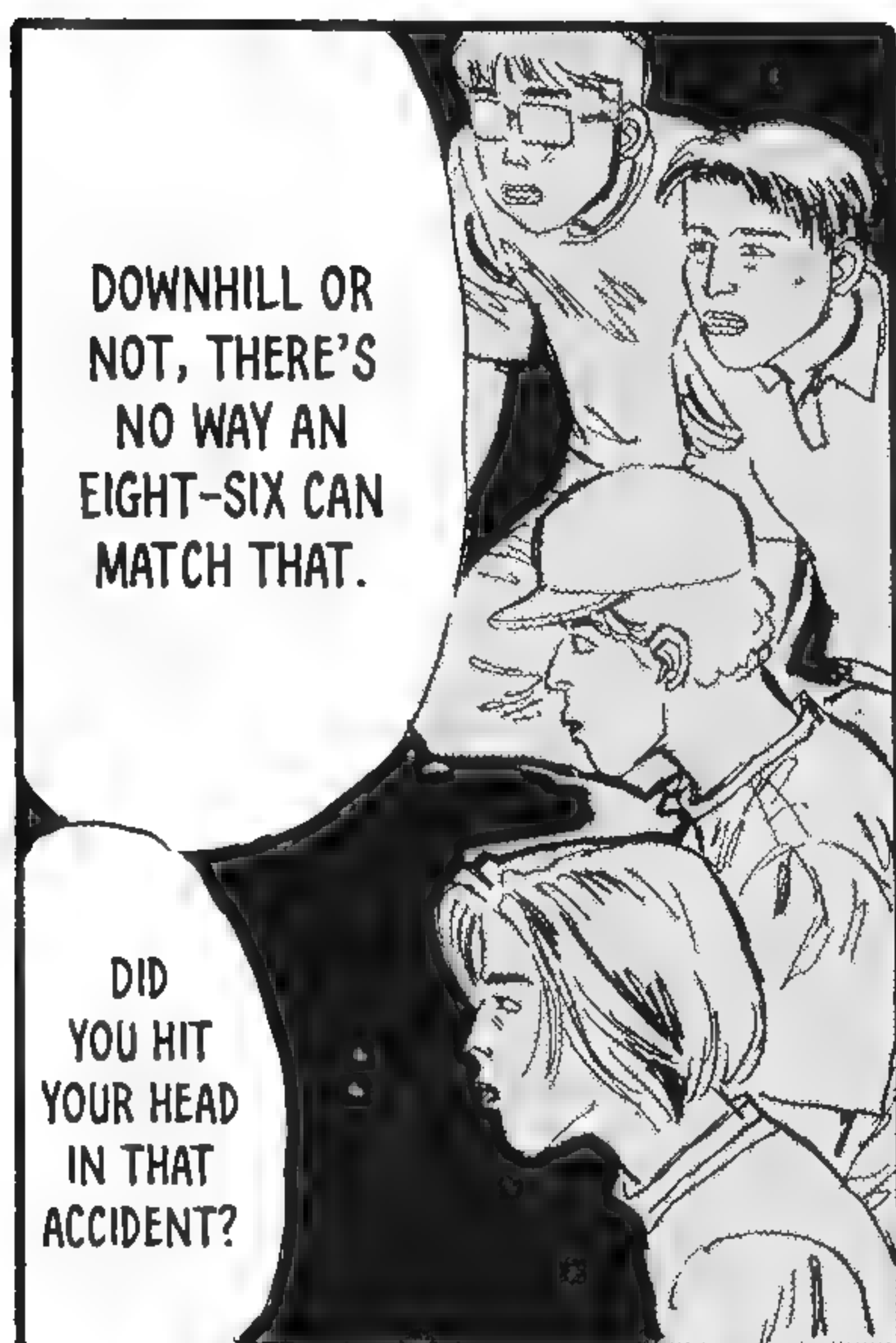
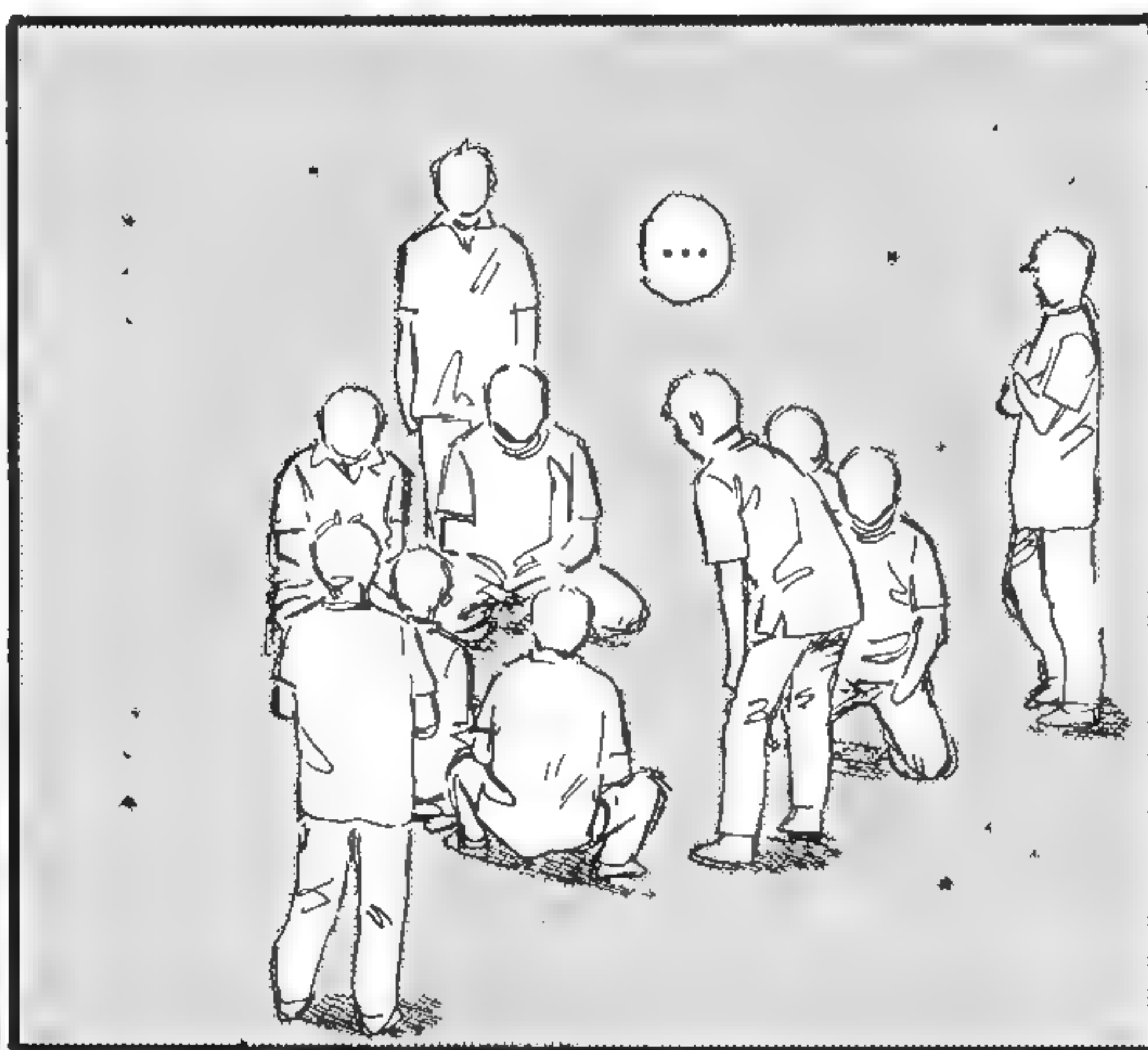


Mount  
Akina



YEAH. LIKE,  
IS IT TRUE  
ABOUT THAT  
EIGHT-SIX?

CAN WE  
REALLY  
TRUST  
THIS GUY,  
IKETANI?



DOWNHILL OR  
NOT, THERE'S  
NO WAY AN  
EIGHT-SIX CAN  
MATCH THAT.

DID  
YOU HIT  
YOUR HEAD  
IN THAT  
ACCIDENT?



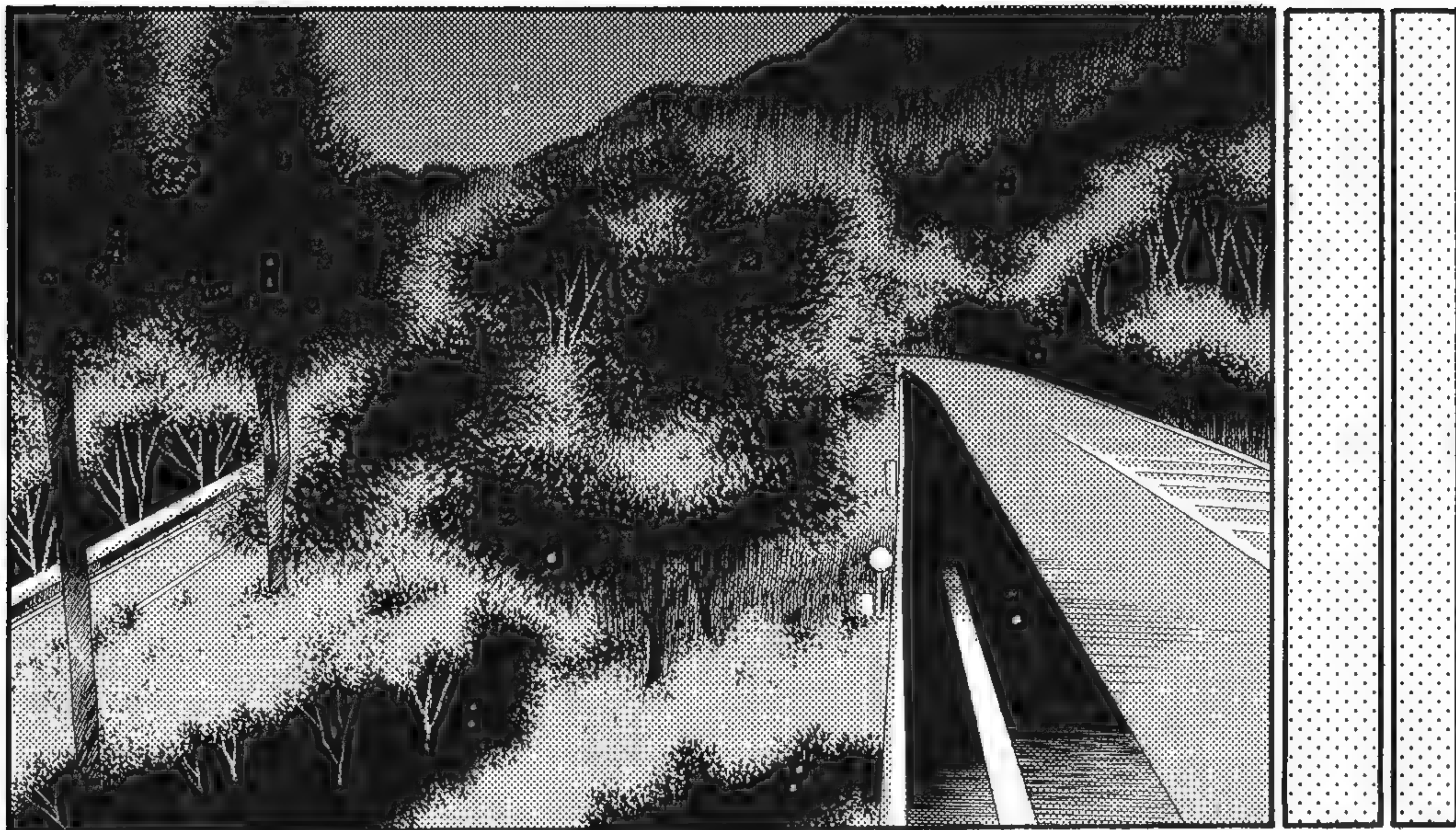
KEISUKE  
TAKAHASHI HASN'T  
DONE TOO MUCH TO  
THAT FD3S, JUST  
TUNED IT UP FOR  
THE DOWNHILL,  
BUT THEY STILL  
SAY IT MAKES  
OVER 350 PS.

ME, I'M  
NOT SURE  
I BELIEVE  
IT.









I EVEN SAW TEAM DECALS FROM USUI AND MYOGI!

I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY PEOPLE OUT FOR A RACE ON AKINA.

MRMR MRMR

GAB GAB

THE TAKAHASHI BROTHERS ARE THE HEAD DOCTOR'S SONS!

THERE'S THIS, LIKE, HUGE HOSPITAL IN TAKASAKI. CALLED THE TAKAHASHI CLINIC?

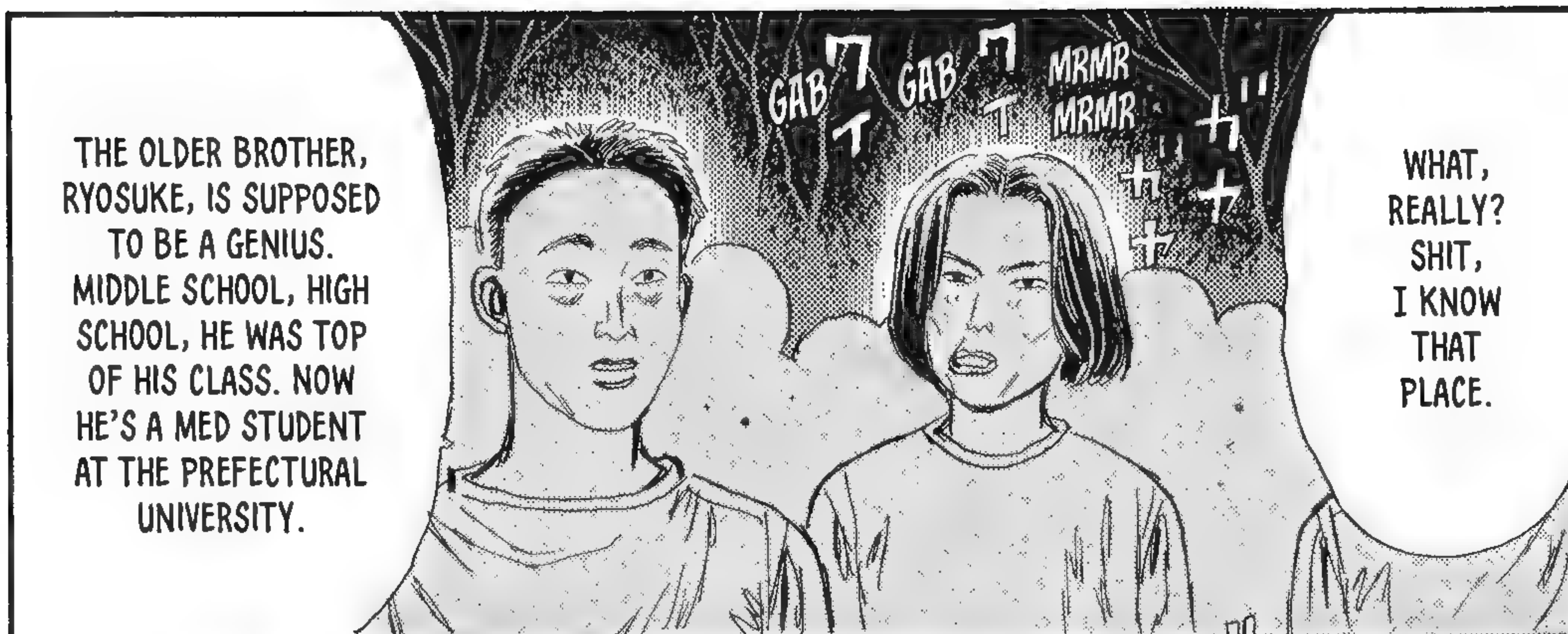
MRMR MRMR

JABBER JABBER

YEAH. TELL PEOPLE THE TAKAHASHI BROTHERS ARE COMING, AND THEY'LL SHOW!

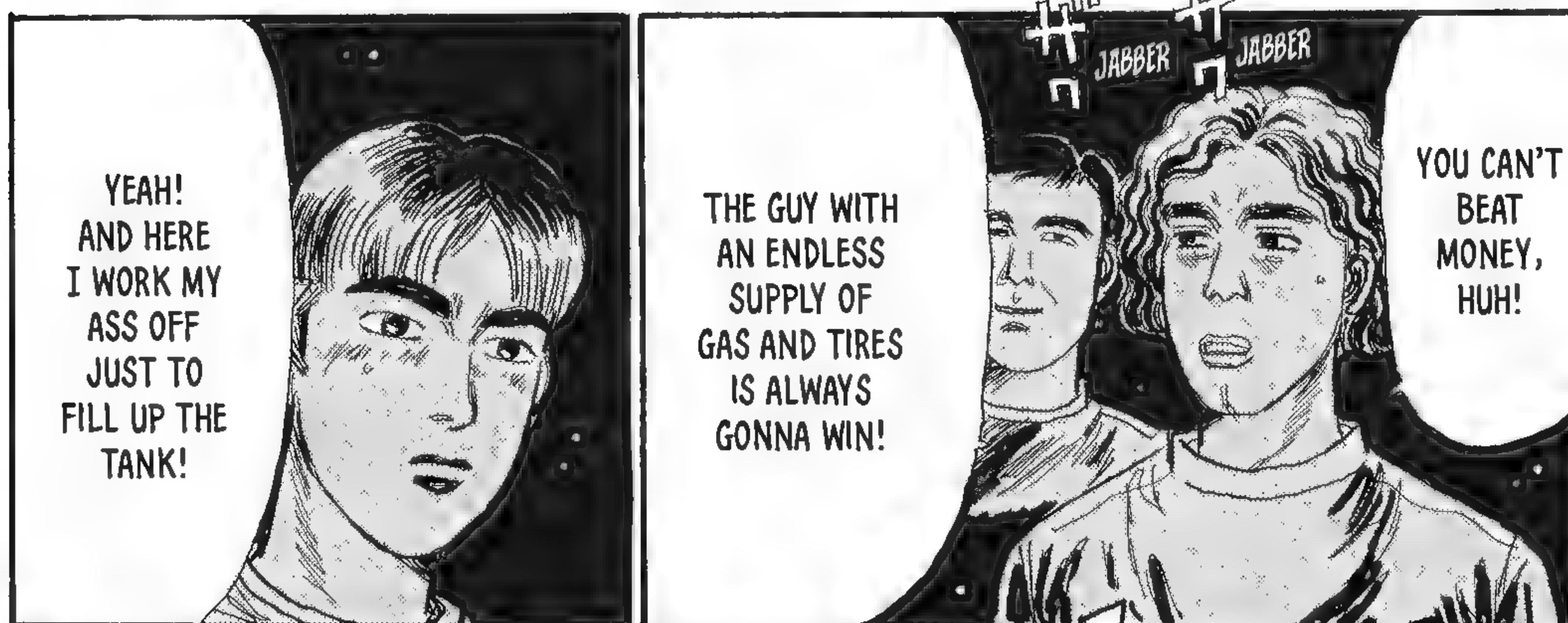
Note: This is a work of fiction...





THE OLDER BROTHER,  
RYOSUKE, IS SUPPOSED  
TO BE A GENIUS.  
MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH  
SCHOOL, HE WAS TOP  
OF HIS CLASS. NOW  
HE'S A MED STUDENT  
AT THE PREFECTURAL  
UNIVERSITY.

WHAT,  
REALLY?  
SHIT,  
I KNOW  
THAT  
PLACE.



YEAH!  
AND HERE  
I WORK MY  
ASS OFF  
JUST TO  
FILL UP THE  
TANK!

THE GUY WITH  
AN ENDLESS  
SUPPLY OF  
GAS AND TIRES  
IS ALWAYS  
GONNA WIN!

YOU CAN'T  
BEAT  
MONEY,  
HUH!



SOMETHING  
WICKED'S  
COMING  
UP THAT  
HILL...

GOD DAMN! YOU  
CAN HEAR THE  
WASTEGATE ALL  
THE WAY OVER  
HERE!









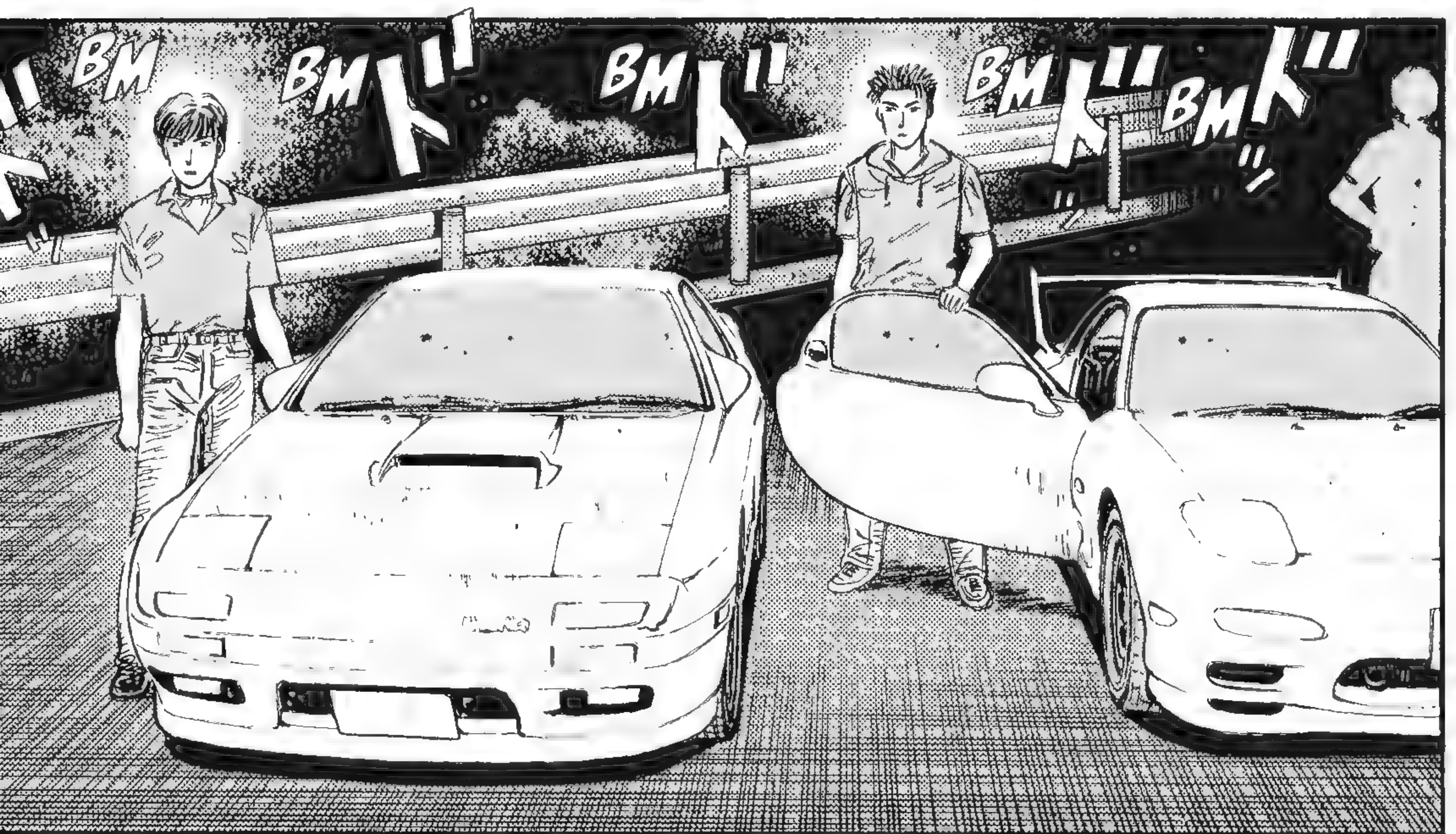


Aw yeah, FC best of 7, amirite?



Ch. 8: The "Friendly Battle" Begins! - END

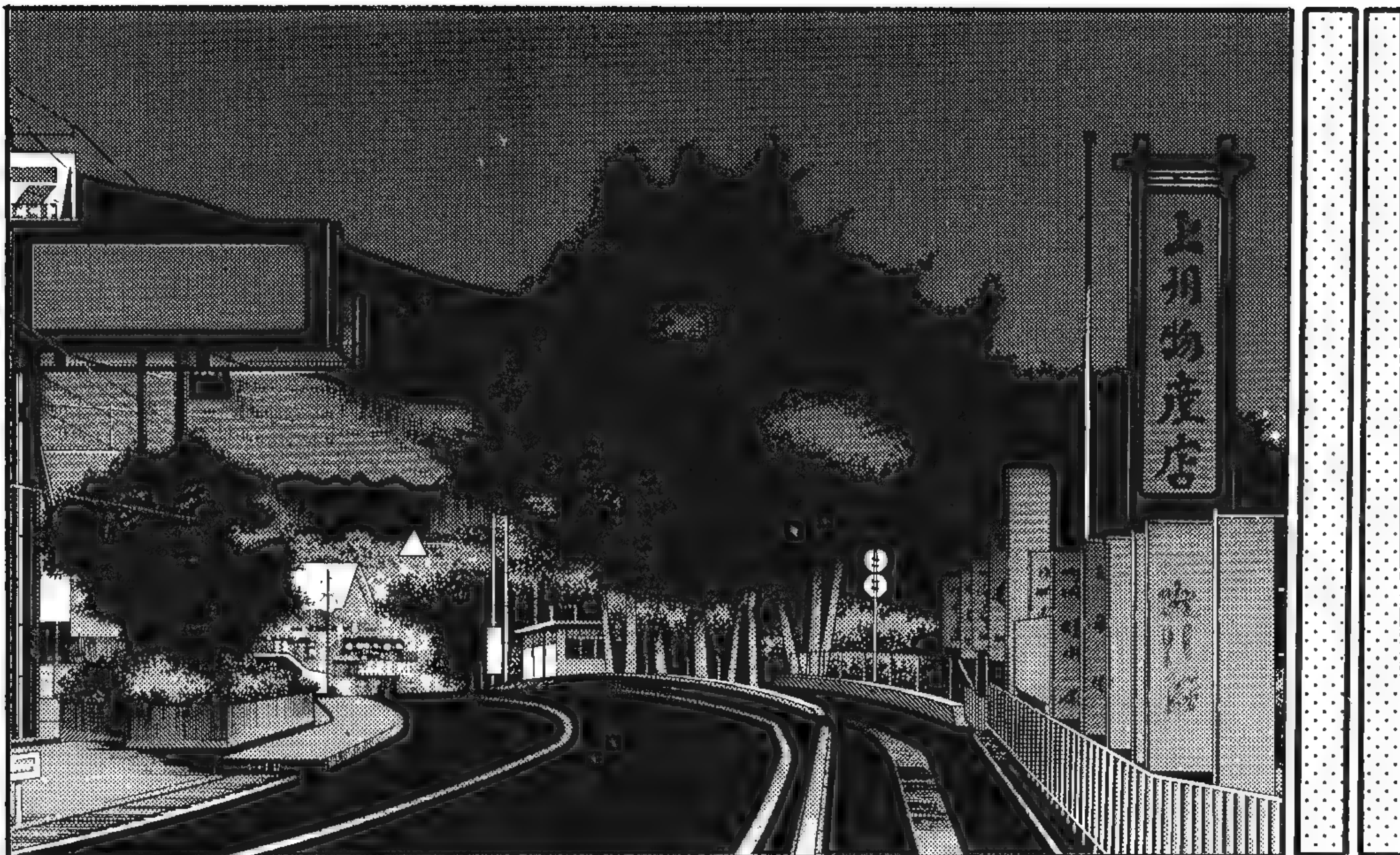












TAKUMI,  
YOU SON OF A  
BITCH! PRICK!  
ASSHOLE! OUR  
FRIENDSHIP IS  
OVER!



IF I TOLD  
YOU ONCE,  
I TOLD YOU  
A THOUSAND  
TIMES!  
I *NEEDED*  
YOU  
TONIGHT!









WE'LL STATION  
MARSHALS AT  
BLIND CORNERS  
SO THE DRIVERS  
CAN RUN FLAT-  
OUT WITHOUT  
WORRYING ABOUT  
ONCOMING  
TRAFFIC.

IT'LL BE  
HERE.  
JUST  
WAIT.

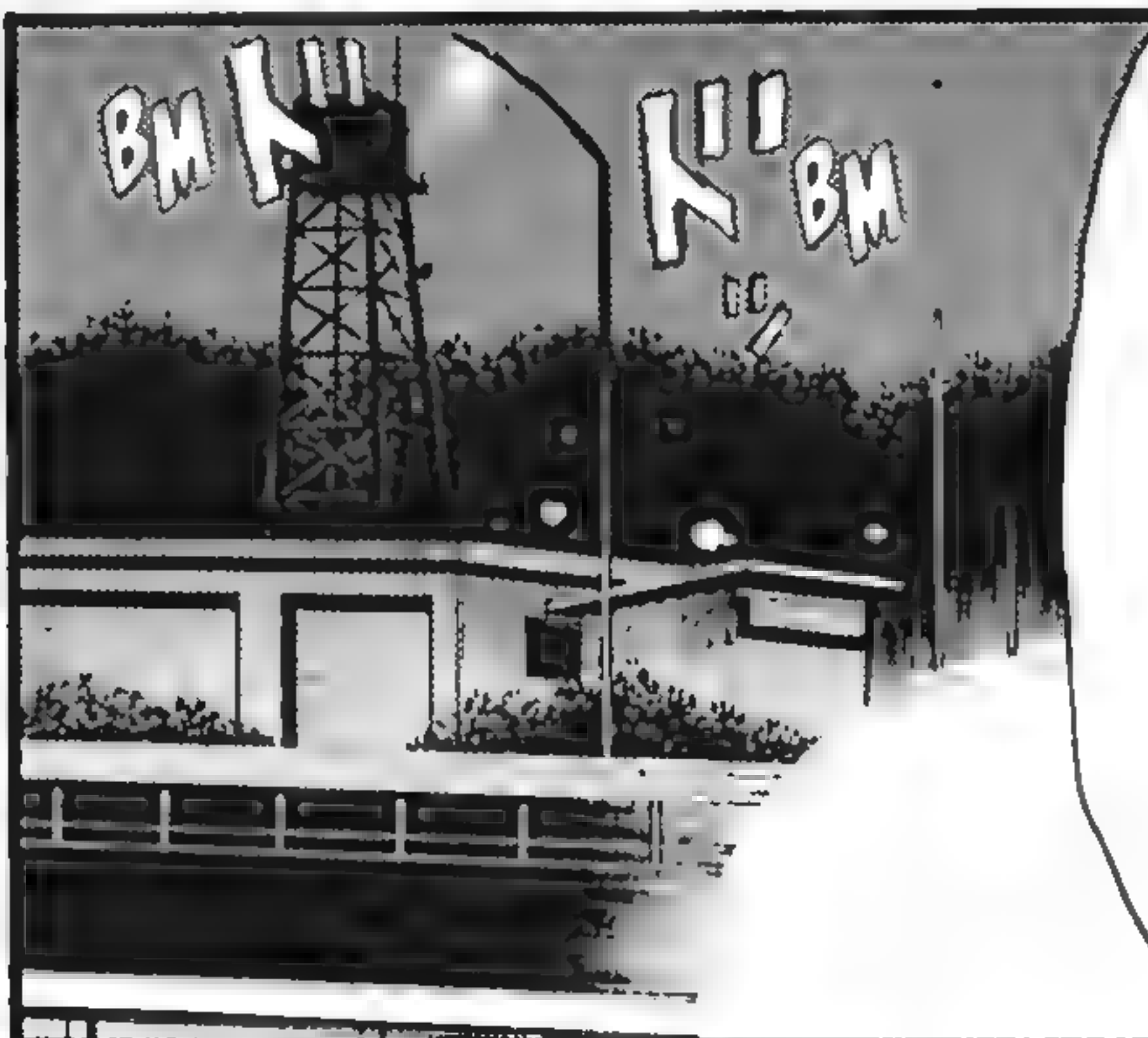
I DON'T SEE  
THE EIGHT-  
SIX, BRO...

WE'LL HAVE  
PEOPLE WITH  
CELLULAR  
PHONES AT  
THE START  
AND END  
POINTS  
TO COUNT  
DOWN.

GLANCE  
GLANCE



MAKES  
SENSE.

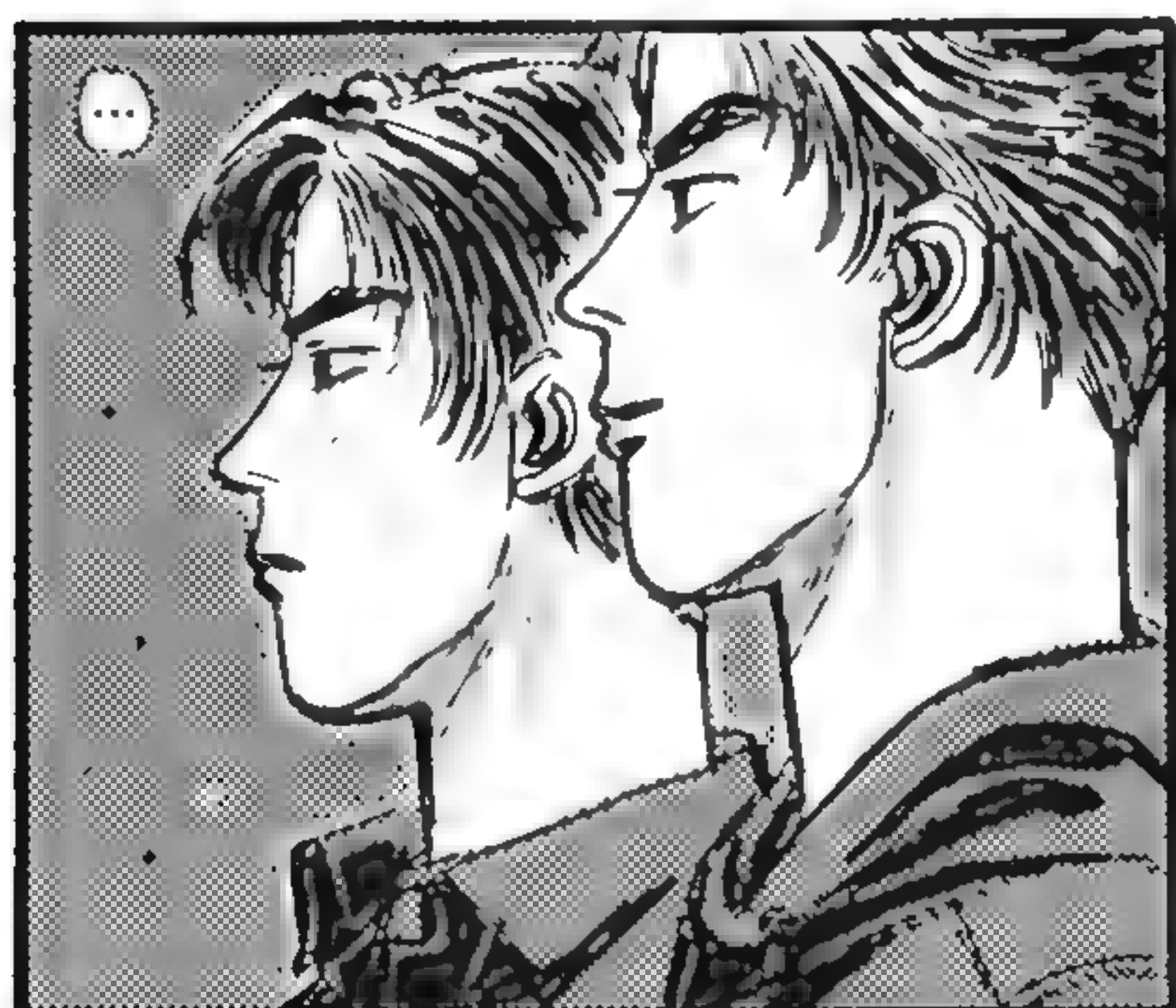


IF  
A MARSHAL  
SEES ANYONE  
COMING THE  
OTHER WAY,  
HE'LL SIGNAL  
BY WAVING  
HIS ARMS.



THEY'VE  
BEEN TAKING  
THEIR TIME  
ATTACK SHOW  
ON THE ROAD.  
OF COURSE  
THEY'VE GOT  
A SYSTEM.

DAMN, RED  
SUNS REALLY  
KNOW WHAT  
THEY'RE  
DOING.

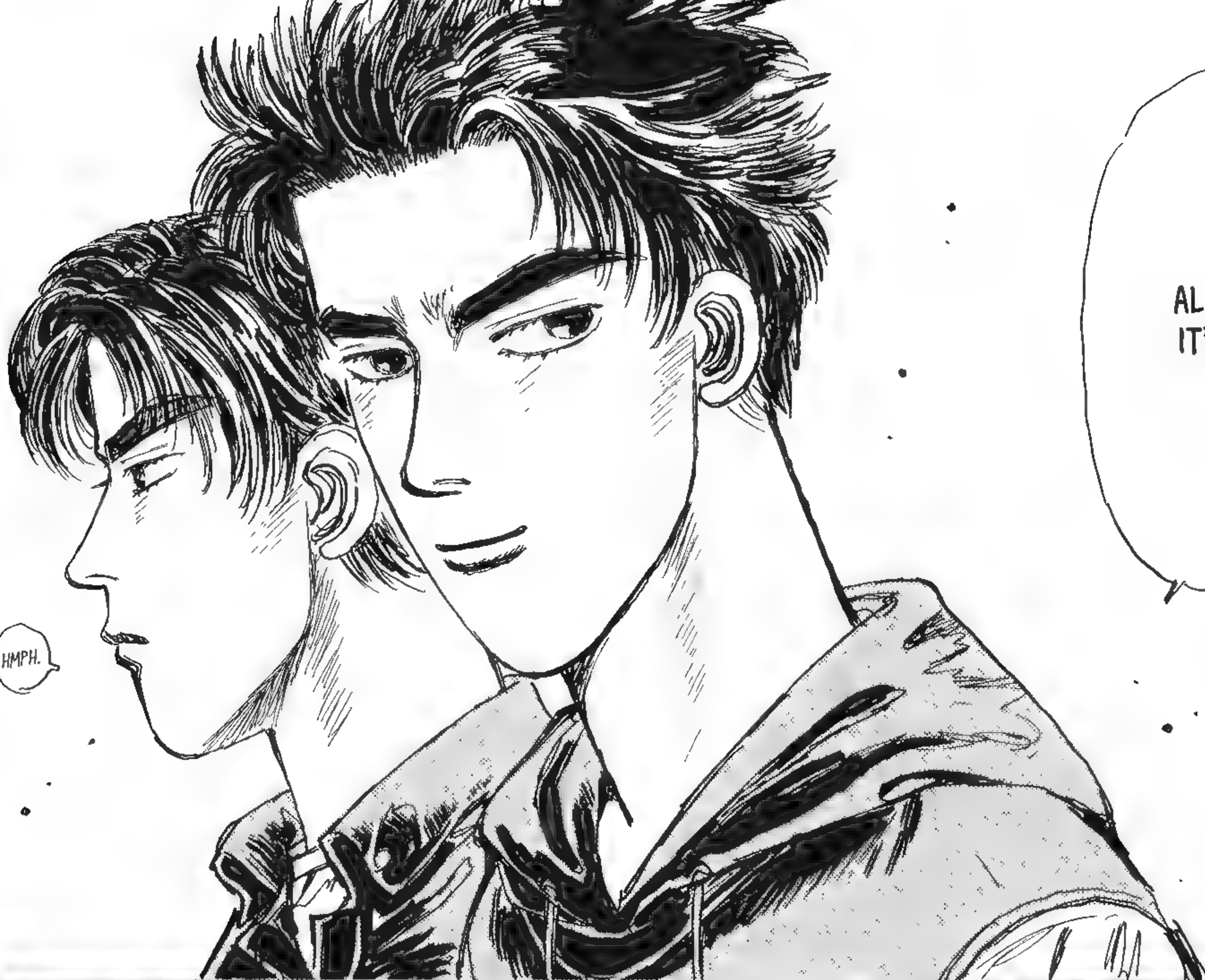


OH,  
AND DON'T  
FORGET TO  
HAVE FUN.  
WE'VE GOT  
A BIG  
AUDIENCE.



EVERYONE  
CLEAR? THEN  
IT'S OPEN  
PRACTICE  
UNTIL TEN.





HMPH.

ALL RIGHT.  
IT'S SHOW  
TIME.



HI W R TA TA TH

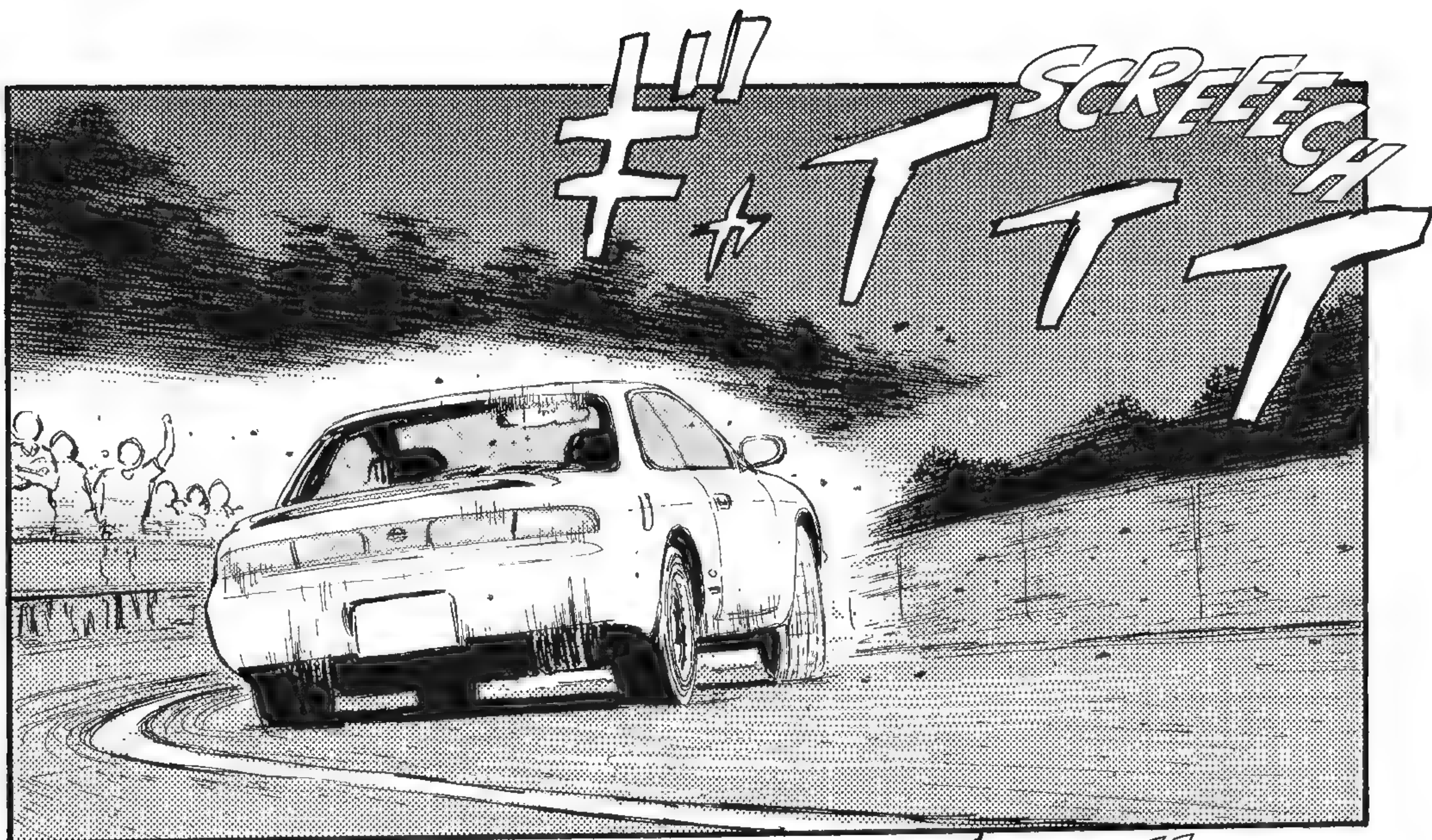


TA TA TA  
ROAR



HERE  
HE  
COMES!  
TA TA TA  
YES!  
HYA TA







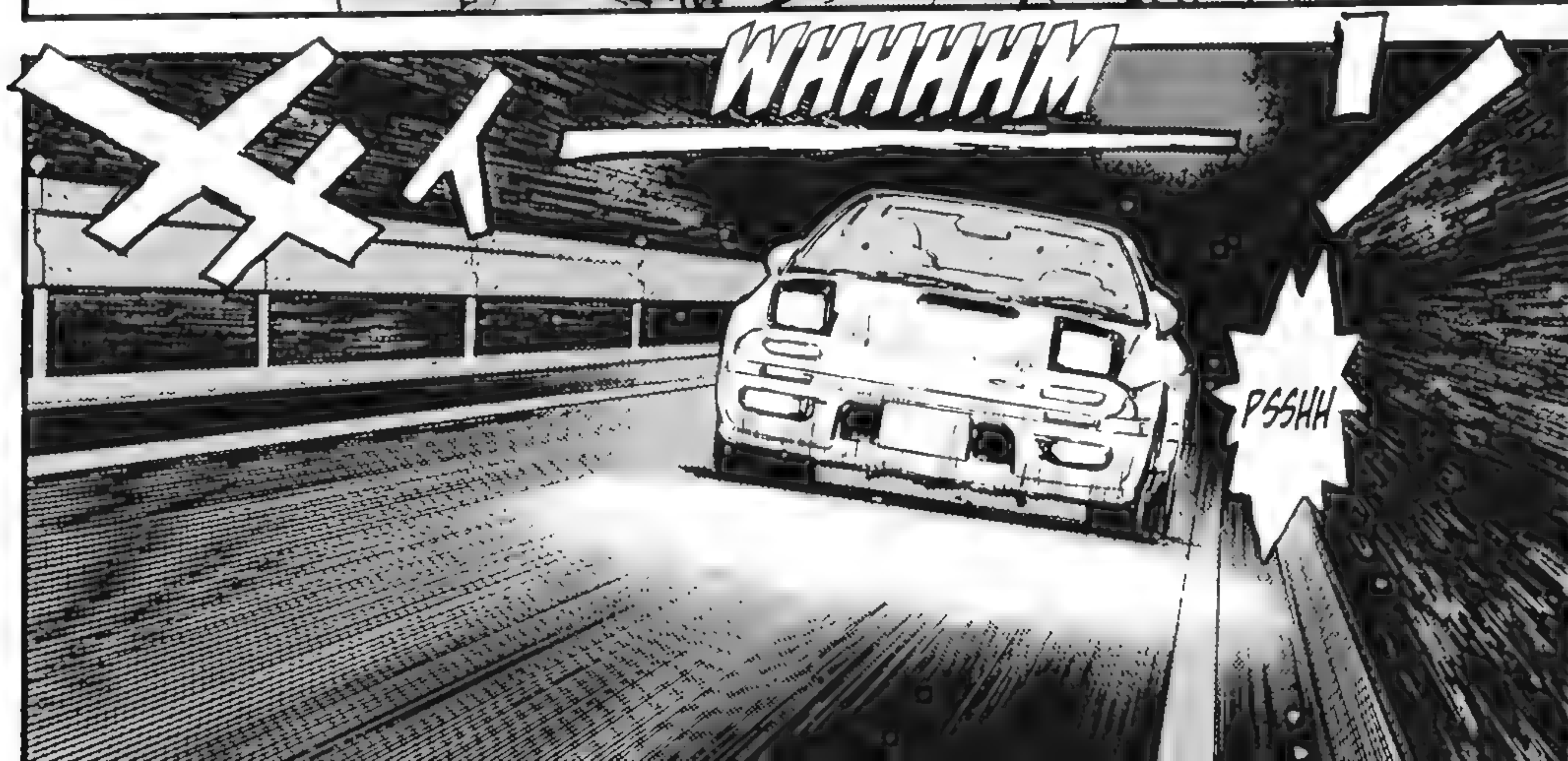


THAT'S  
AN FD3S—  
ONE OF THE  
TAKAHASHI  
BROTHERS!

YIKES! HE'S  
POINTING  
LEFT...  
DOES HE  
KNOW THE  
CORNER  
GOES  
RIGHT?!











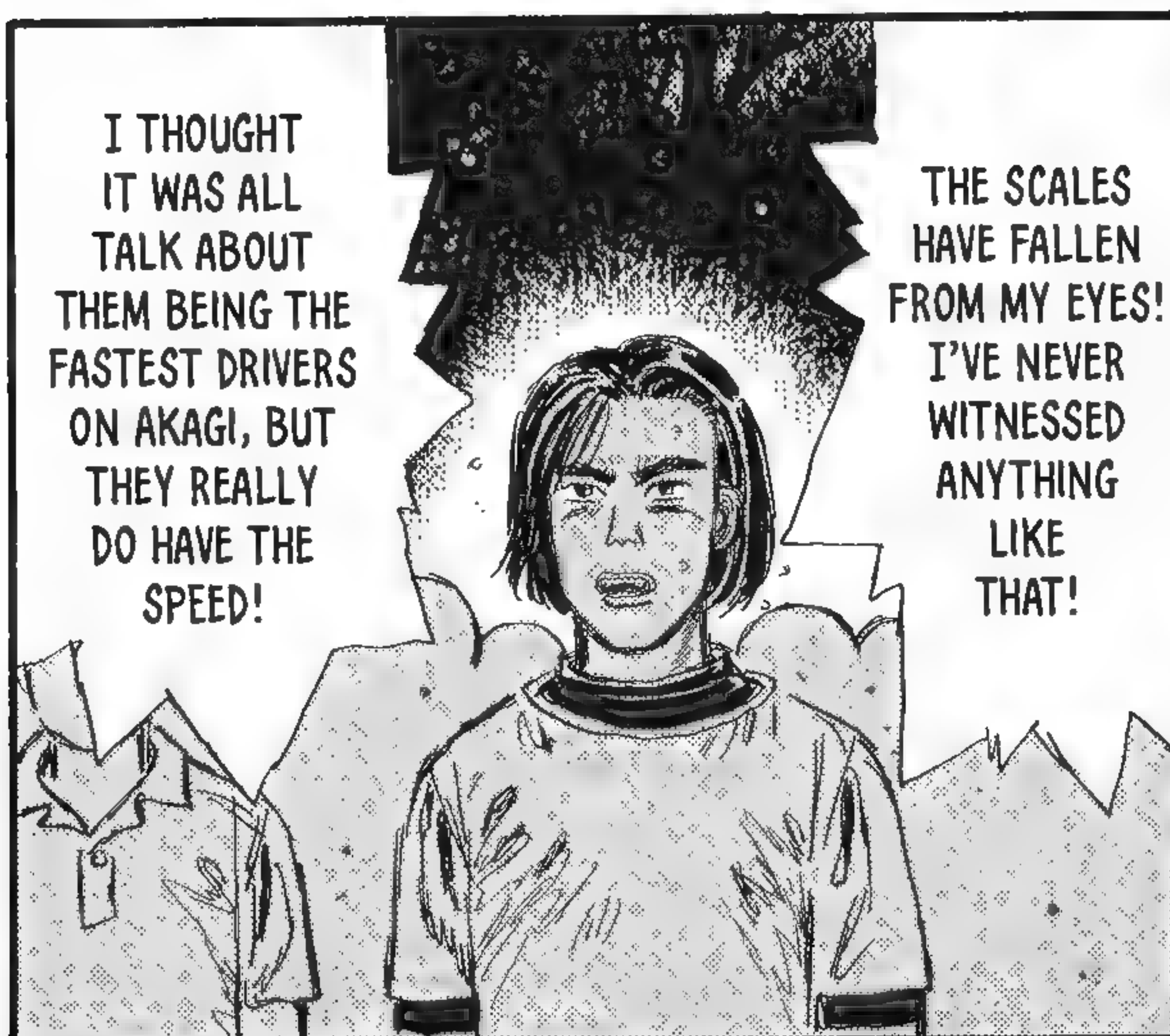
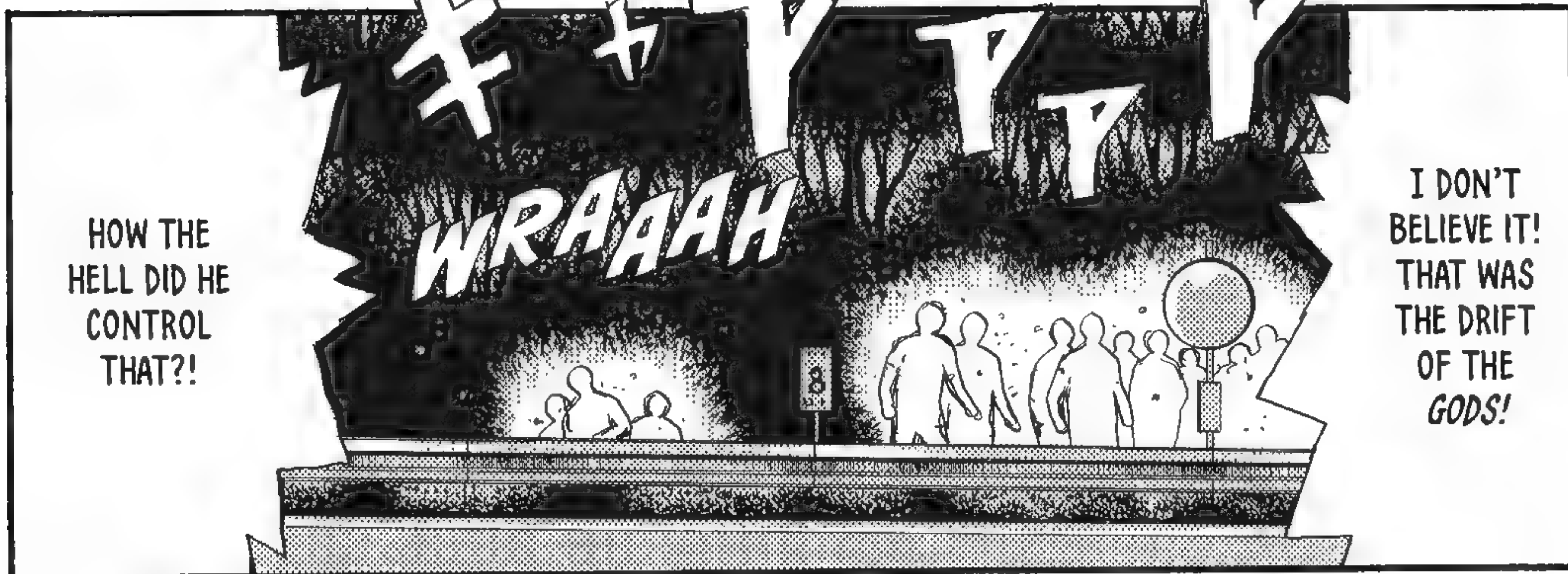












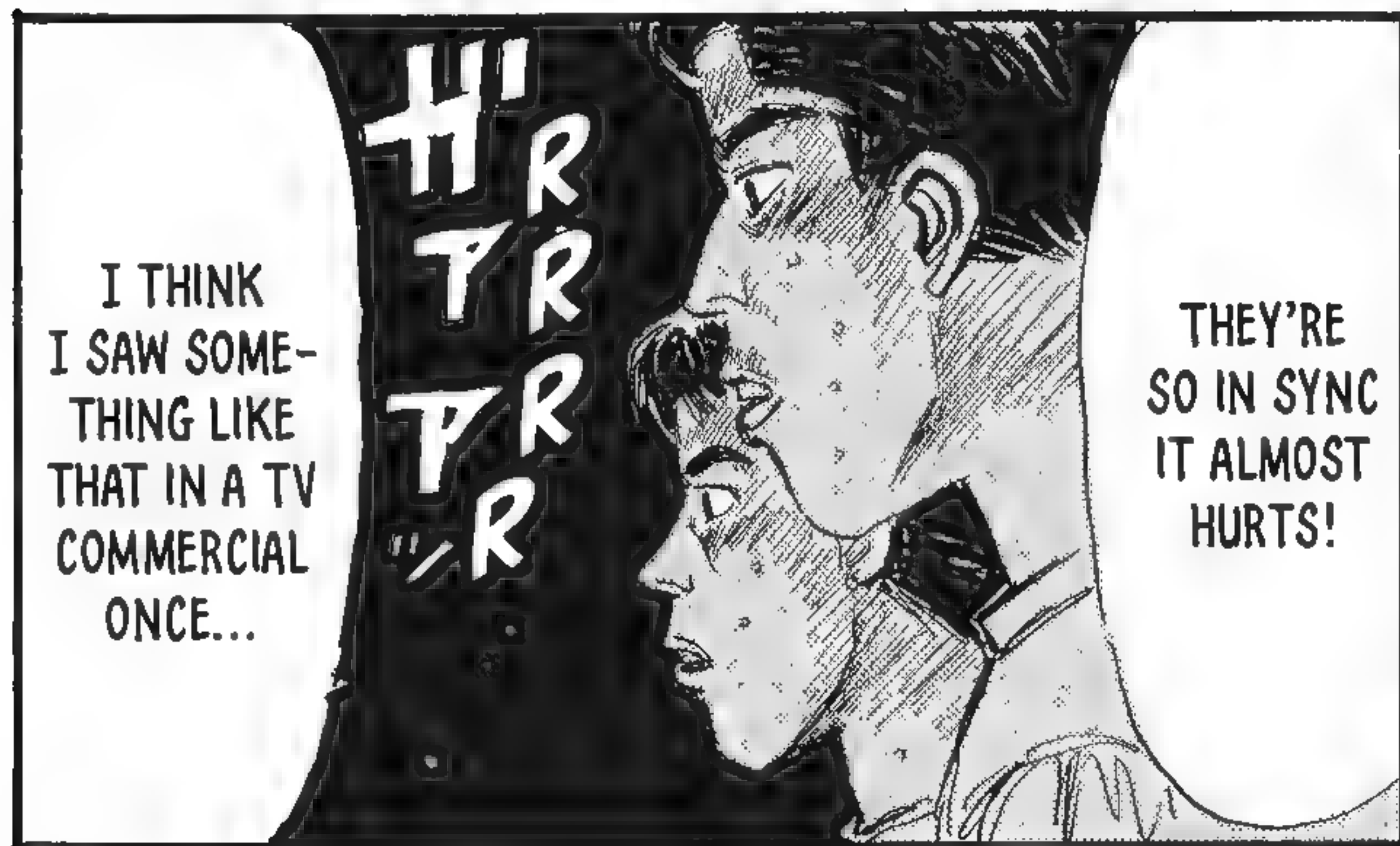








IT'S THE  
FAMOUS  
TANDEM  
DRIFT!



I THINK  
I SAW SOME-  
THING LIKE  
THAT IN A TV  
COMMERCIAL  
ONCE...

THEY'RE  
SO IN SYNC  
IT ALMOST  
HURTS!



HOW  
COULD  
THERE  
NOT  
BE ANY  
CON-  
TACT?!

OH  
MY GOD!  
THEY'RE  
PRAC-  
TICALLY  
TOUCHING!

YIKES!

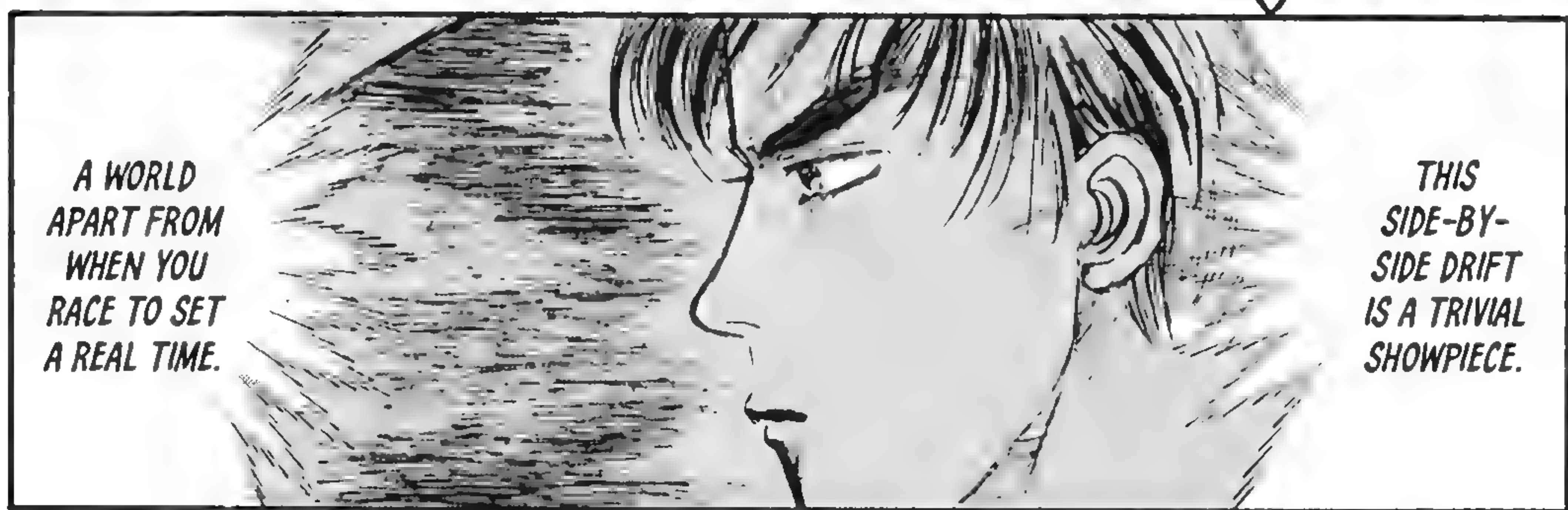
It's





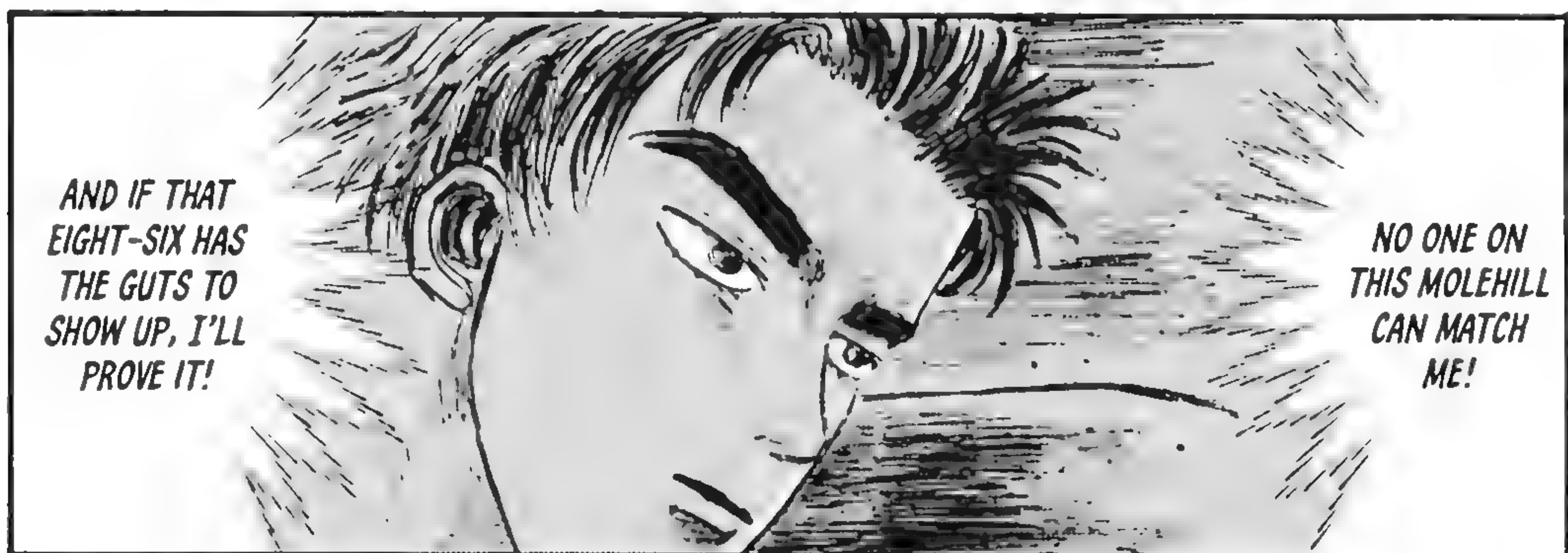
YOU CAN'T DO  
THAT IN A DRIFT  
UNLESS YOU KNOW  
EXACTLY HOW TO  
CONTROL YOUR  
SPEED AND LINE,  
I MEAN  
PERFECTLY.

THEY'RE BOTH  
AWESOME, BUT  
RYOSUKE'S  
BETTER. HE  
CAME UP FROM  
BEHIND.



A WORLD  
APART FROM  
WHEN YOU  
RACE TO SET  
A REAL TIME.

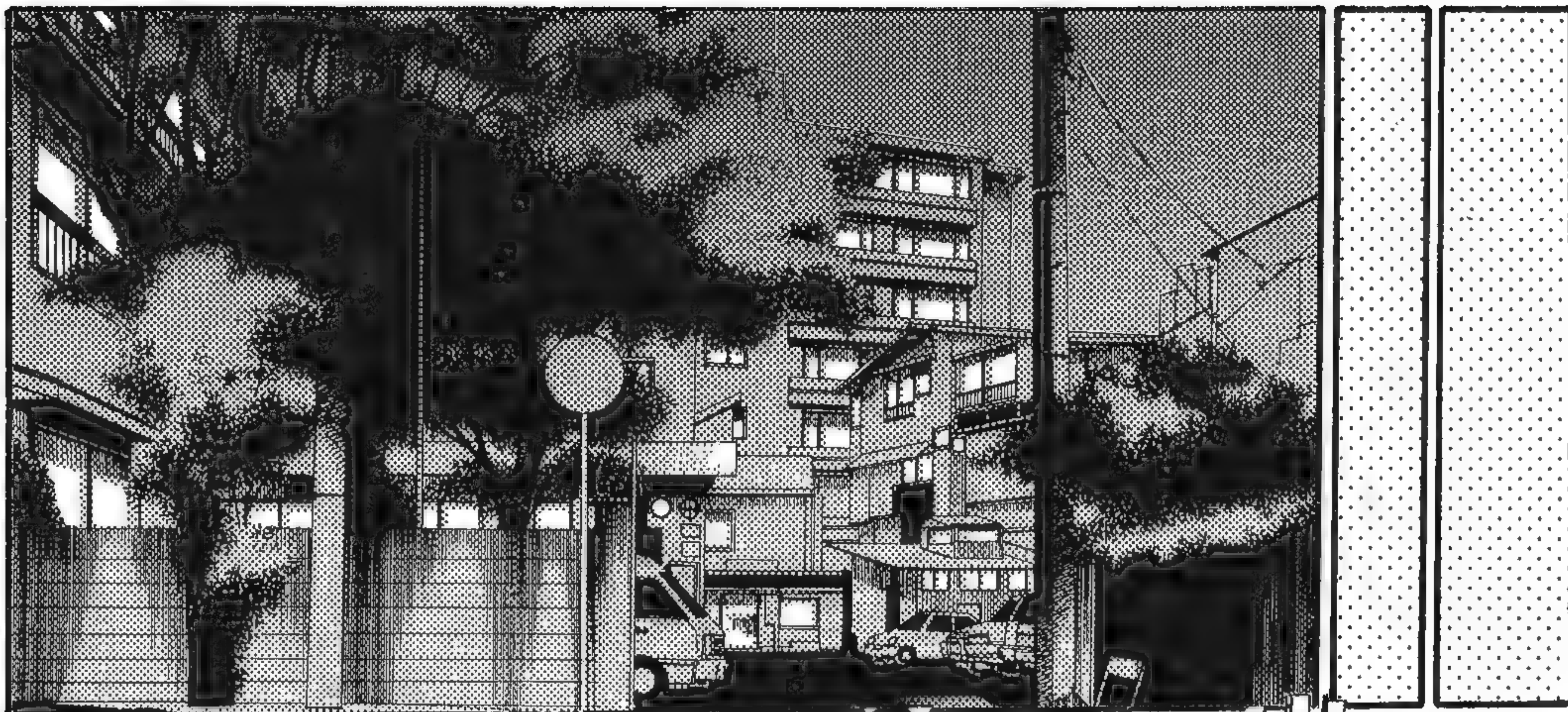
THIS  
SIDE-BY-  
SIDE DRIFT  
IS A TRIVIAL  
SHOWPIECE.



AND IF THAT  
EIGHT-SIX HAS  
THE GUTS TO  
SHOW UP, I'LL  
PROVE IT!

NO ONE ON  
THIS MOLEHILL  
CAN MATCH  
ME!









WHAT?  
CRISIS OF  
CONFIDENCE?

HUH. I  
THINK IT'S  
FUN. THE  
BEST!



YOU MAKE  
IT SOUND  
LIKE A  
GAME.

FUN?

FUN IS  
THE LAST  
THING I'M  
FEELING  
NOW.



I KNOW.

JUST  
DRIVE LIKE  
YOU ALWAYS  
DO. YOU'LL  
WIN.



NO. NOT  
REALLY...



TRY A  
DECADE  
OR TWO!

HEH!  
LIKE  
HELL.



...AND  
MAYBE I  
COULD EVEN  
BE BETTER  
THAN YOU,  
DAD.

I  
WAS JUST  
THINKING...  
ANOTHER  
TWO OR  
THREE  
YEARS...





Ch. 9: Howl of the 4A-G - END

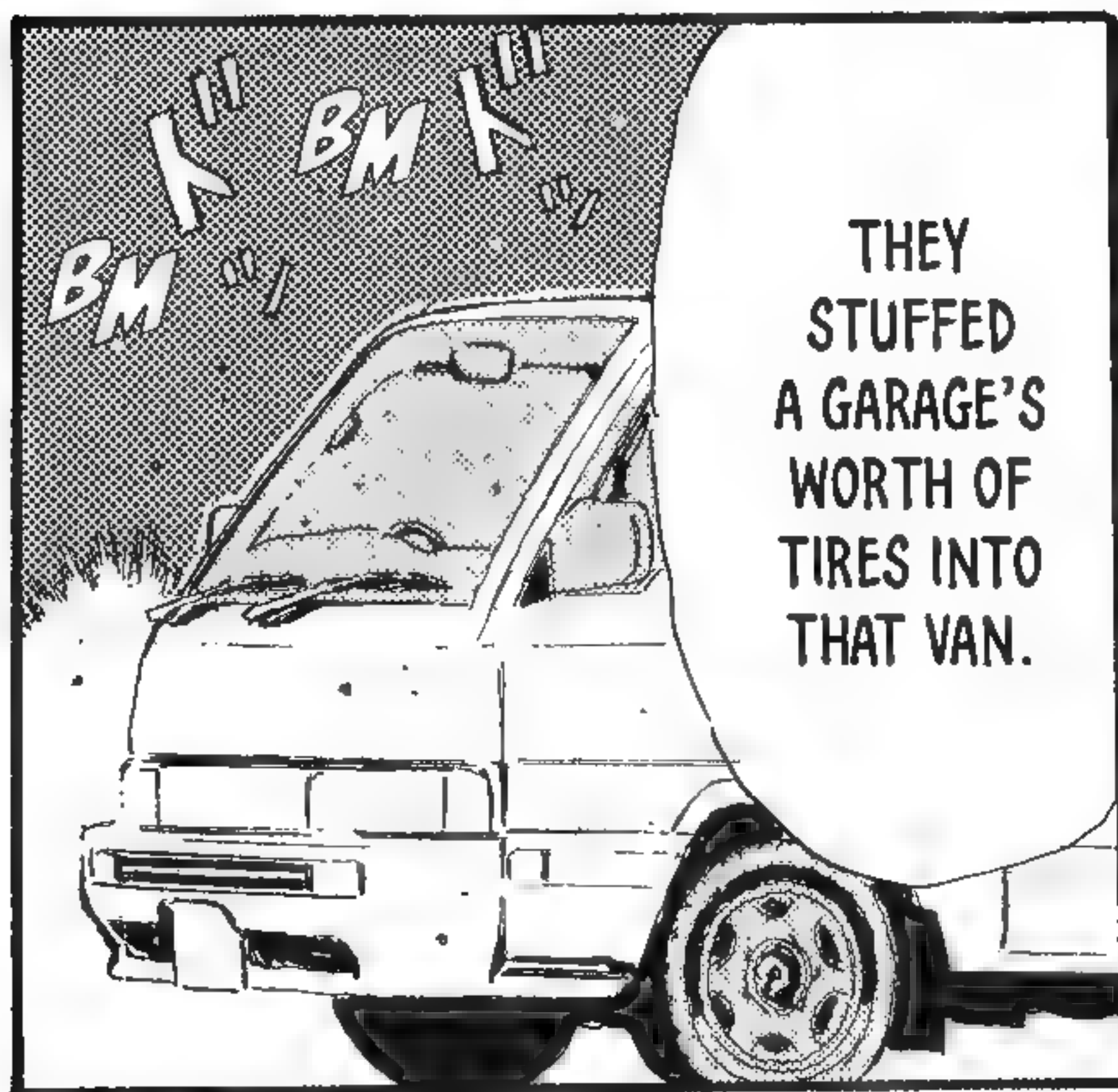
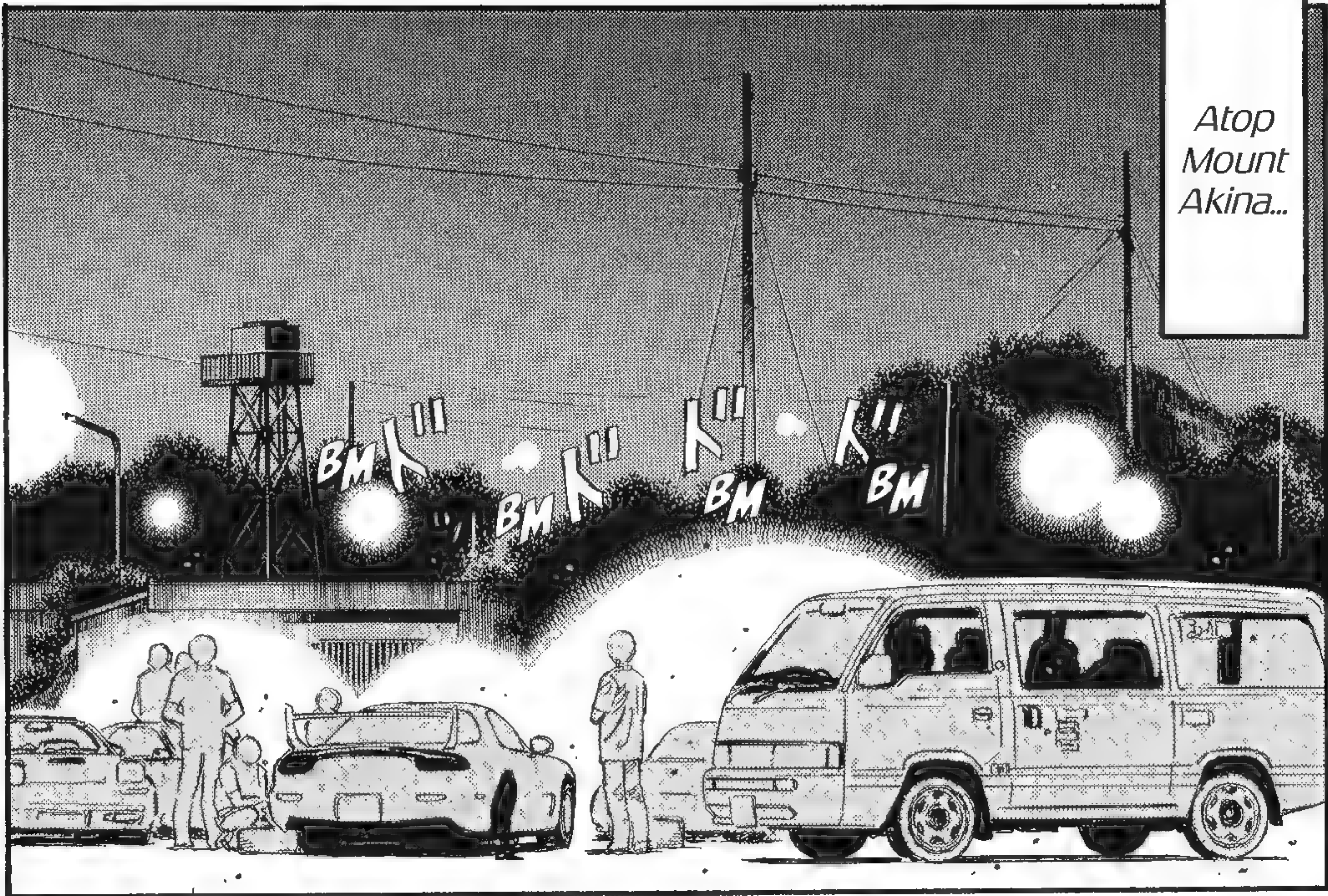


► *Ch. 10: The Downhill Specialist*





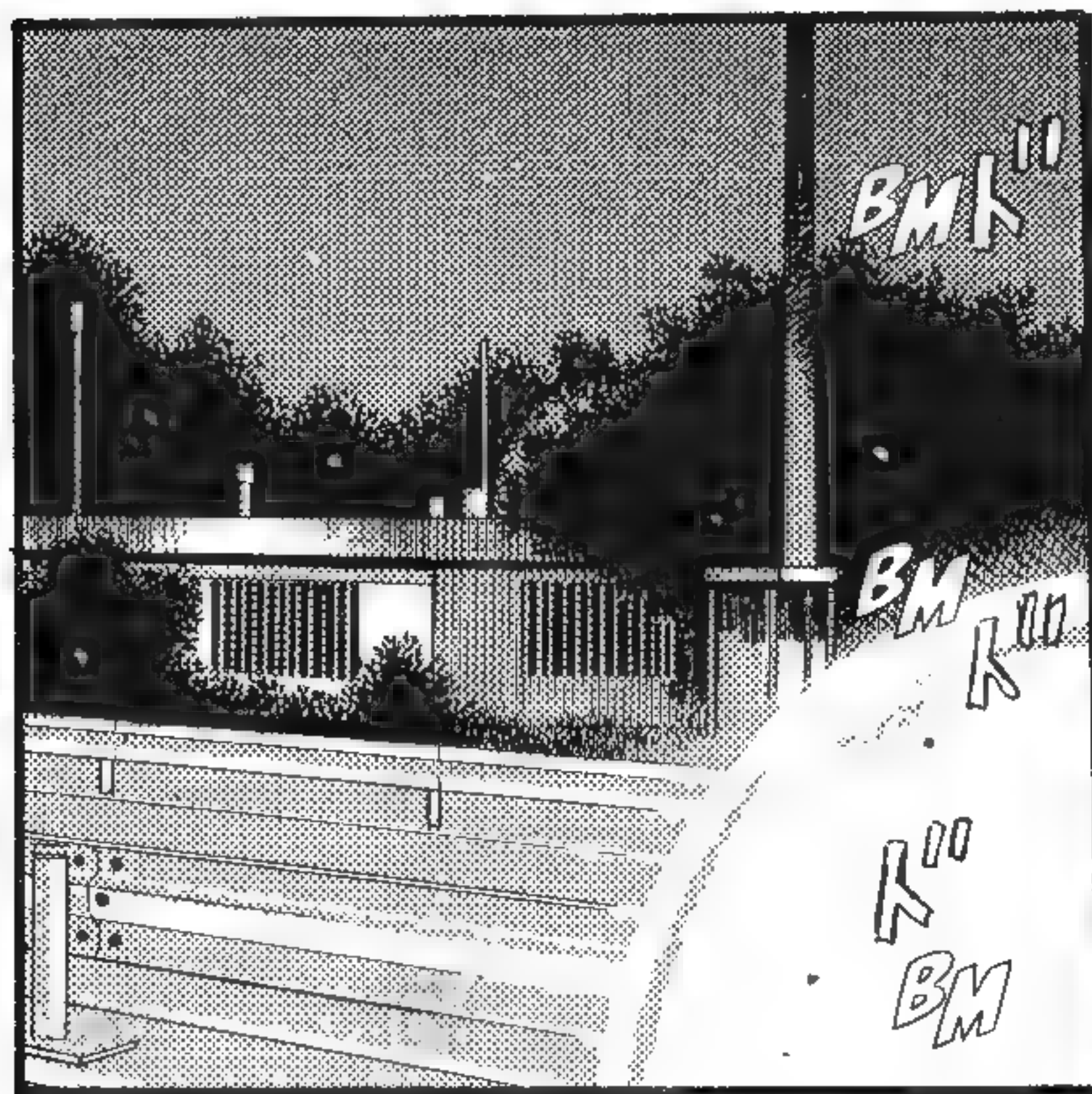
Atop  
Mount  
Akina...



THEY  
STUFFED  
A GARAGE'S  
WORTH OF  
TIRES INTO  
THAT VAN.



LOOKS LIKE  
KEISUKE IS  
GOING TO BE  
THEIR TIME  
ATTACKER.



DAMMIT,  
WE'RE IN  
TROUBLE.

SWITCHING  
TIRES TO SUIT  
THE SITUATION?  
THEY'RE NOT  
MESSING  
AROUND.





THAT  
EIGHT-  
SIX.

HE'S NOT  
HERE,  
BRO.



GUESS  
I HAD HIM ALL  
WRONG. CAN'T  
FREAKIN'  
STAND IT.

DAMMIT!  
I REALLY  
THOUGHT  
HE'D SHOW  
UP. DEFEND  
AKINA'S  
HONOR.

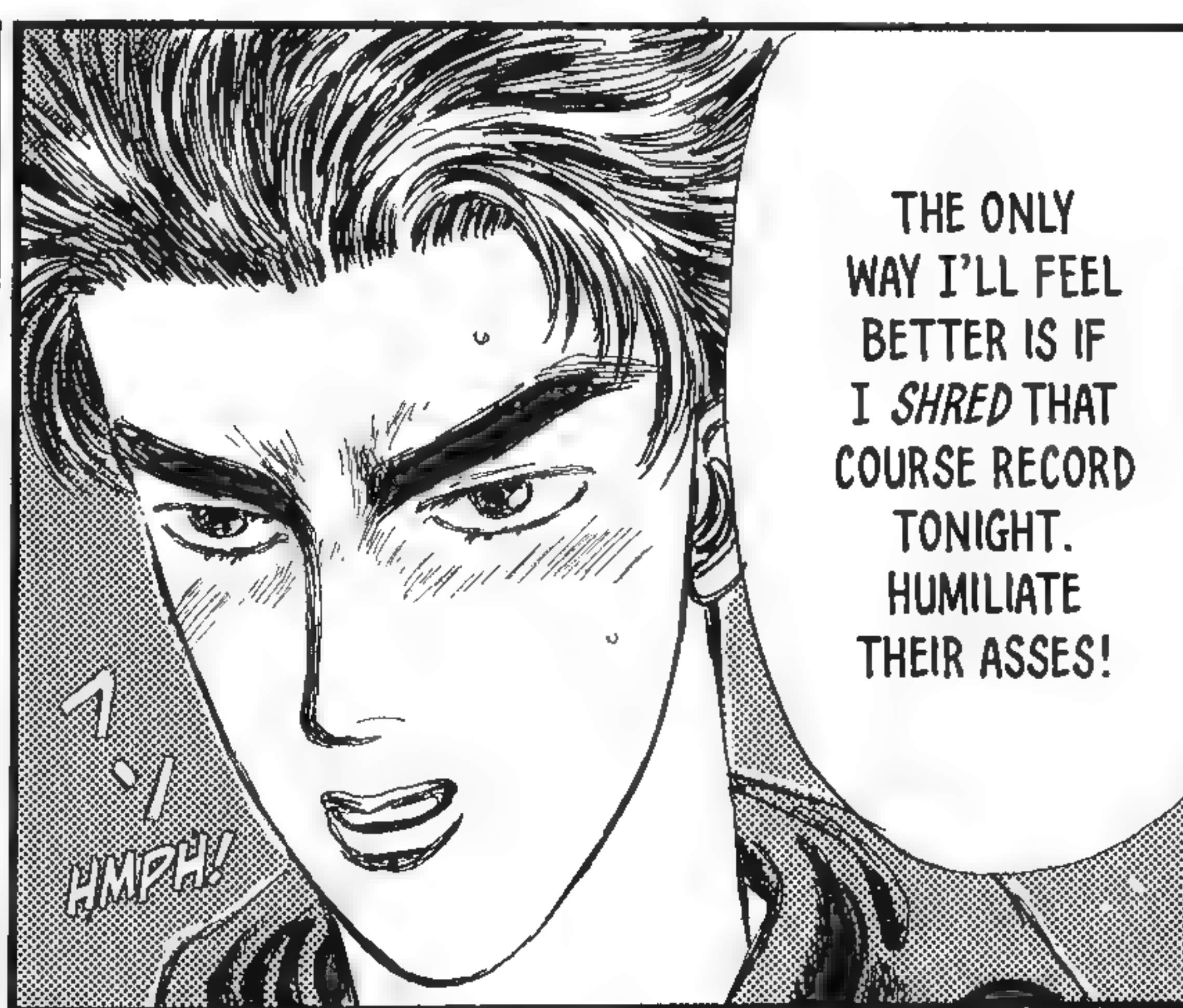
THE REST OF  
THESE SMALL  
FRY AREN'T  
EVEN WORTH  
MY TIME.



BELIEVE  
ME, I  
KNOW.

IT'S  
ALMOST  
TEN,  
IKETANI.

BM  
BM  
BM



THE ONLY  
WAY I'LL FEEL  
BETTER IS IF  
I *SHRED* THAT  
COURSE RECORD  
TONIGHT.  
HUMILIATE  
THEIR ASSES!

7  
HMPH!





YOU'D BETTER  
ASSUME THAT  
YOU'LL BE UP,  
KENJI...

THIS  
MIGHT...  
THIS MIGHT  
BE IT.

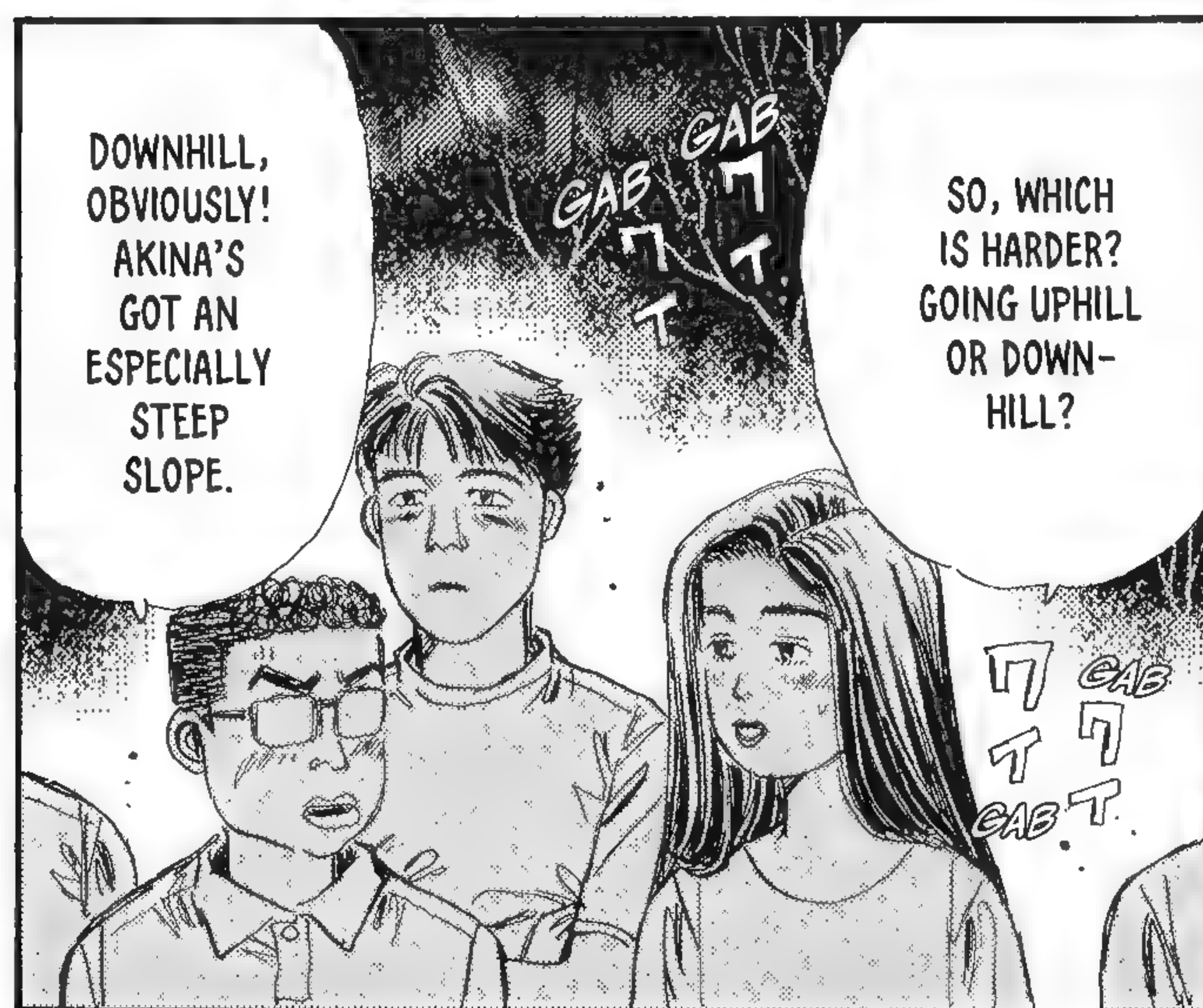


YEAH!  
THAT WAS  
COOL AS  
HELL!

I'VE  
NEVER SEEN  
DRIFTING  
LIKE THAT  
IN MY  
LIFE!

MAN,  
THOSE  
TAKA-  
HASHI  
BROTHERS  
ARE SOME-  
THING  
ELSE!

MAYBE I  
SHOULD GET  
AN RX-7...



DOWNHILL,  
OBSVIOUSLY!  
AKINA'S  
GOT AN  
ESPECIALLY  
STEEP  
SLOPE.

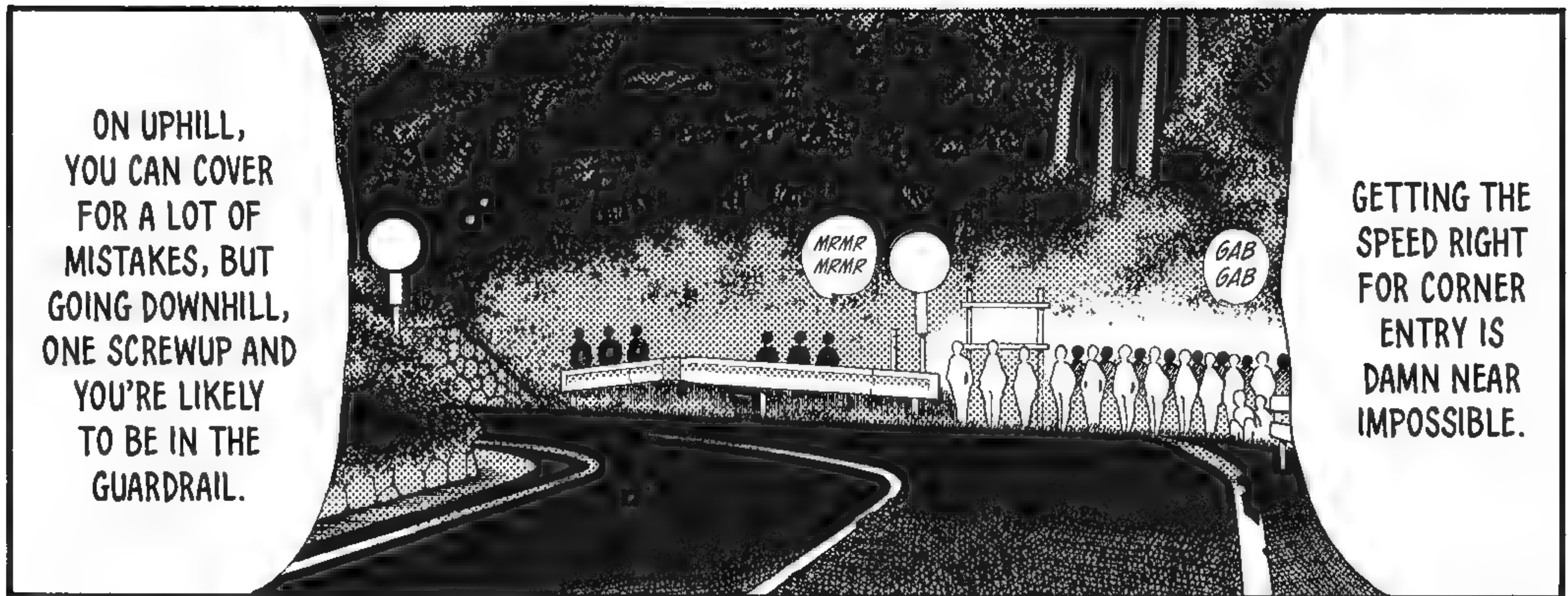
SO, WHICH  
IS HARDER?  
GOING UPHILL  
OR DOWN-  
HILL?



LET'S  
CHECK IT  
OUT AND  
THEN HEAD  
HOME.

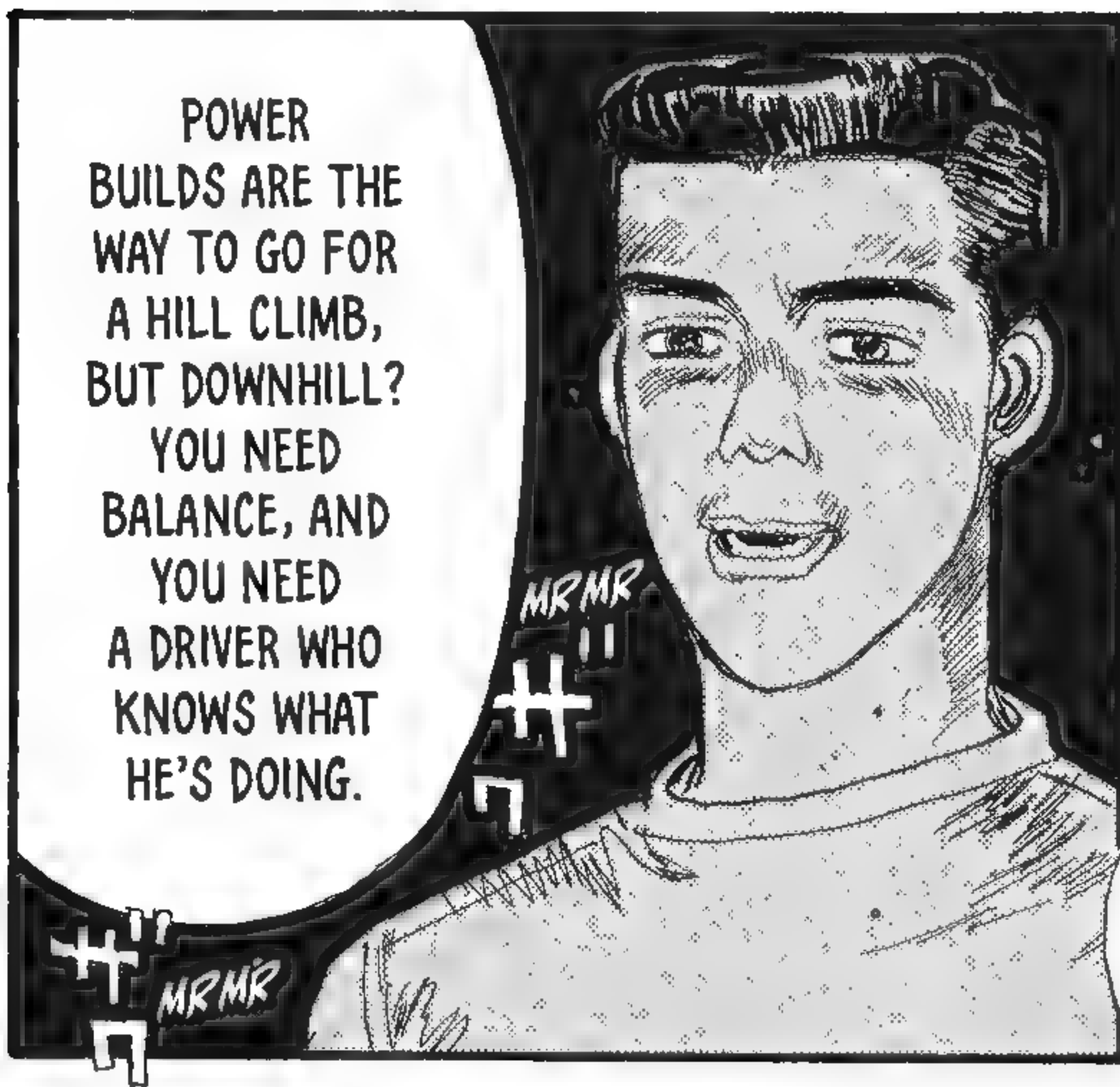
TIME  
ATTACK'S  
GONNA  
START  
SOON.



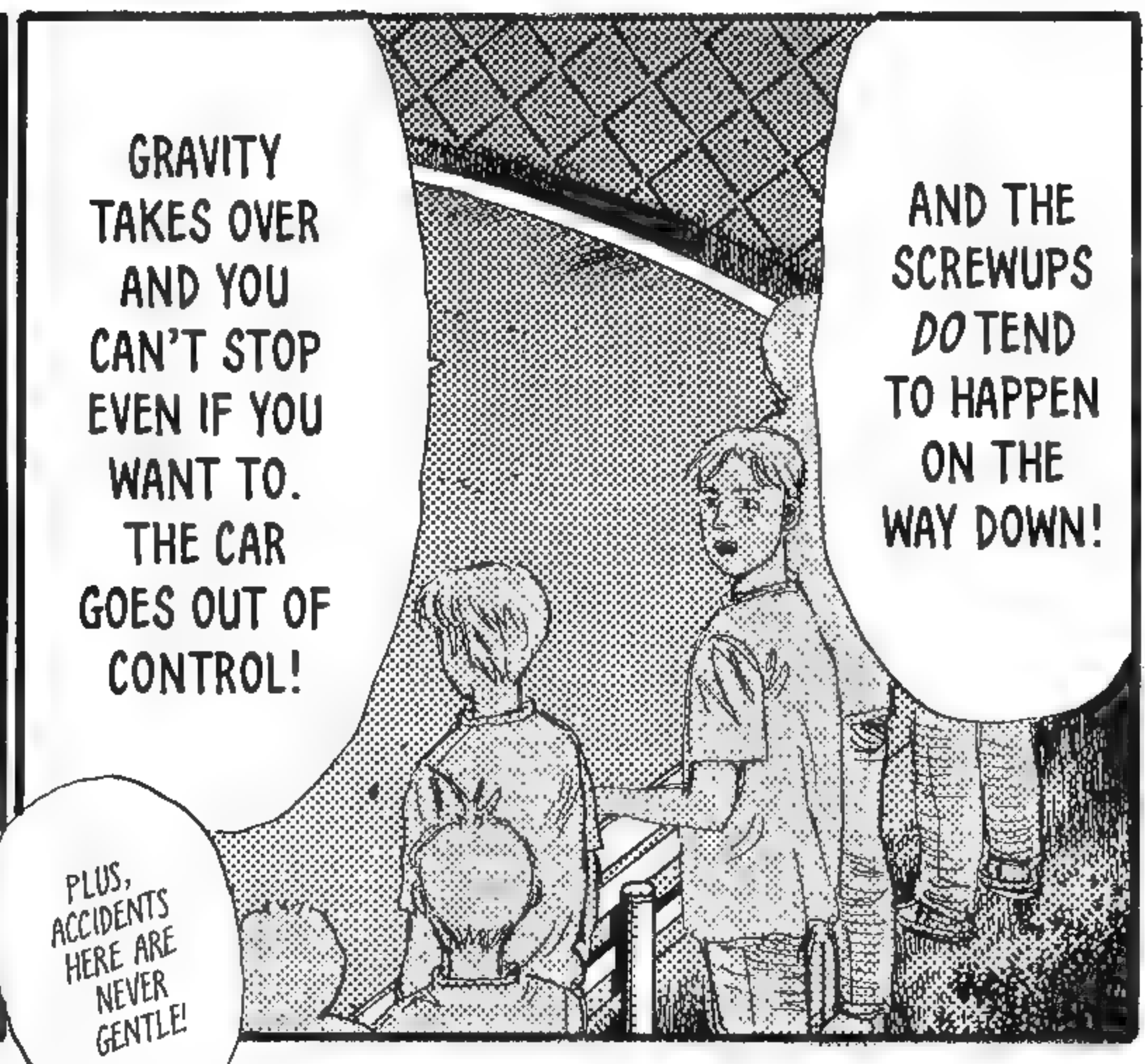


ON UPHILL,  
YOU CAN COVER  
FOR A LOT OF  
MISTAKES, BUT  
GOING DOWNHILL,  
ONE SCREWUP AND  
YOU'RE LIKELY  
TO BE IN THE  
GUARDRAIL.

GETTING THE  
SPEED RIGHT  
FOR CORNER  
ENTRY IS  
DAMN NEAR  
IMPOSSIBLE.



POWER  
BUILDS ARE THE  
WAY TO GO FOR  
A HILL CLIMB,  
BUT DOWNHILL?  
YOU NEED  
BALANCE, AND  
YOU NEED  
A DRIVER WHO  
KNOWS WHAT  
HE'S DOING.



GRAVITY  
TAKES OVER  
AND YOU  
CAN'T STOP  
EVEN IF YOU  
WANT TO.  
THE CAR  
GOES OUT OF  
CONTROL!

AND THE  
SCREWUPS  
DO TEND  
TO HAPPEN  
ON THE  
WAY DOWN!

PLUS,  
ACCIDENTS  
HERE ARE  
NEVER  
GENTLE!



BEST I CAN  
DO IS WATCH.  
RACING  
DOWNHILL'S  
MORE THAN  
I CAN  
HANDLE!

A DOWNHILL  
SPECIALIST...

HA  
HA!



YEAH!  
THAT'S  
THE  
DREAM.

THERE'S  
NOTHING  
COOLER THAN  
A RACER WHO  
CAN BE SUPER-  
QUICK DOWNHILL  
EVEN IN AN  
UNDERPOWERED  
CAR.





...AND IT'S  
NOT GONNA  
BE PRETTY.

FACT IS, THOUGH,  
NO ONE AROUND  
HERE HAS BETTER  
TECHNIQUE THAN  
THE TAKAHASHI  
BROTHERS. IT'S  
OBVIOUS HOW  
THIS IS GONNA  
GO...



EVERYTHING  
READY?

START  
LINE  
HERE.

*At the  
summit...*

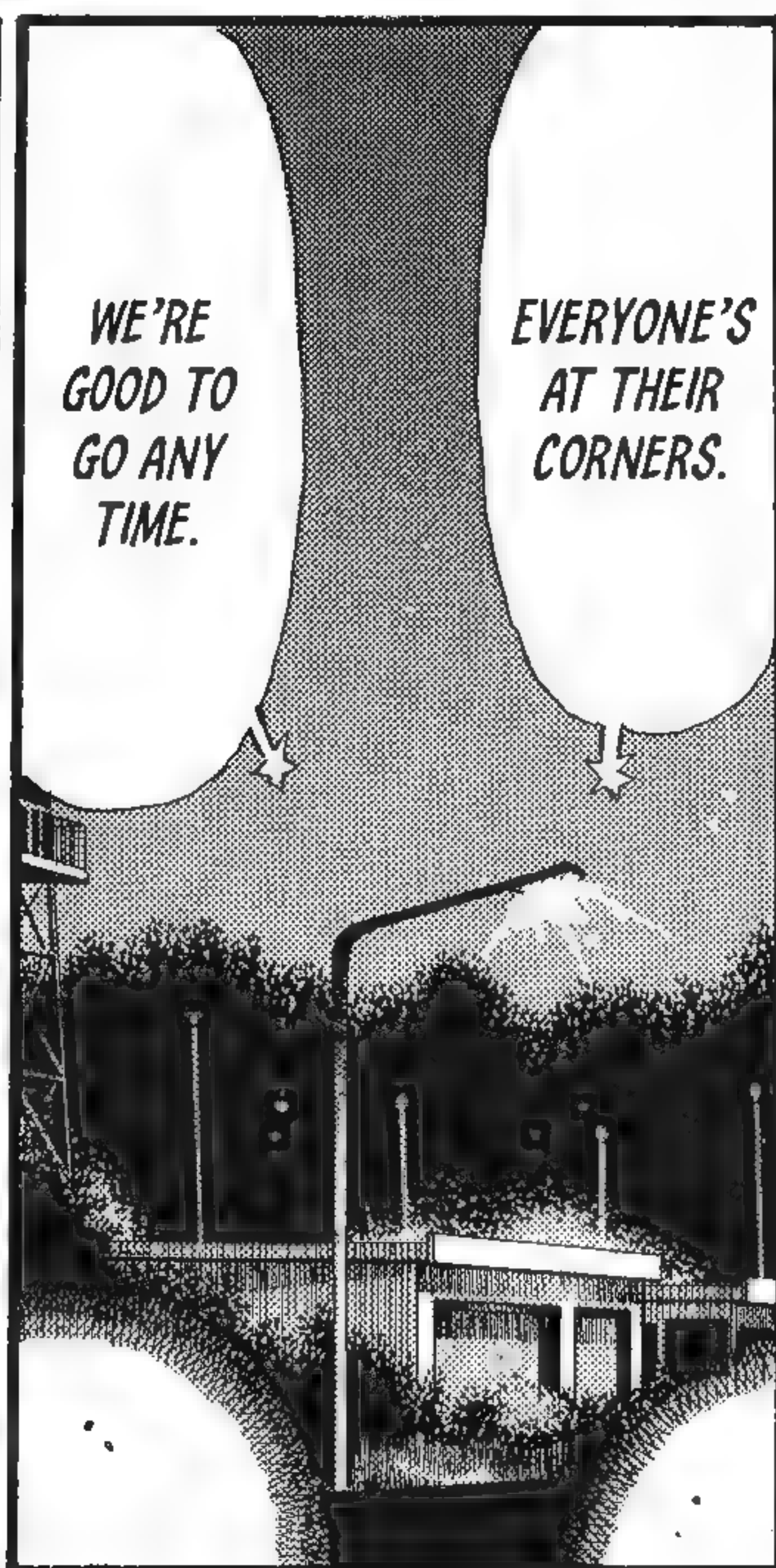


YEAH.  
OKAY.



YOU  
ABOUT  
READY?

YOU  
HEARD  
THE  
MAN.



WE'RE  
GOOD TO  
GO ANY  
TIME.

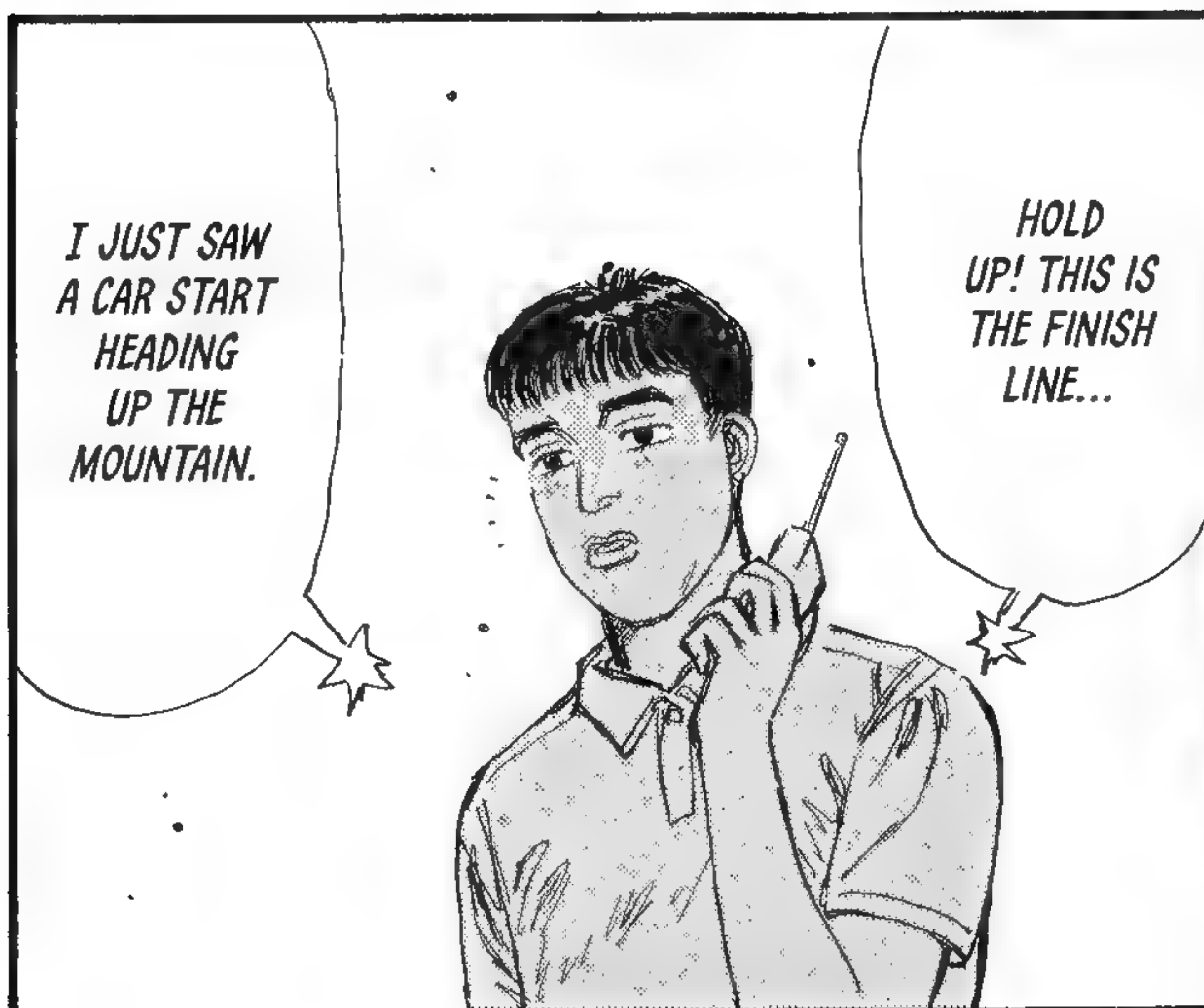
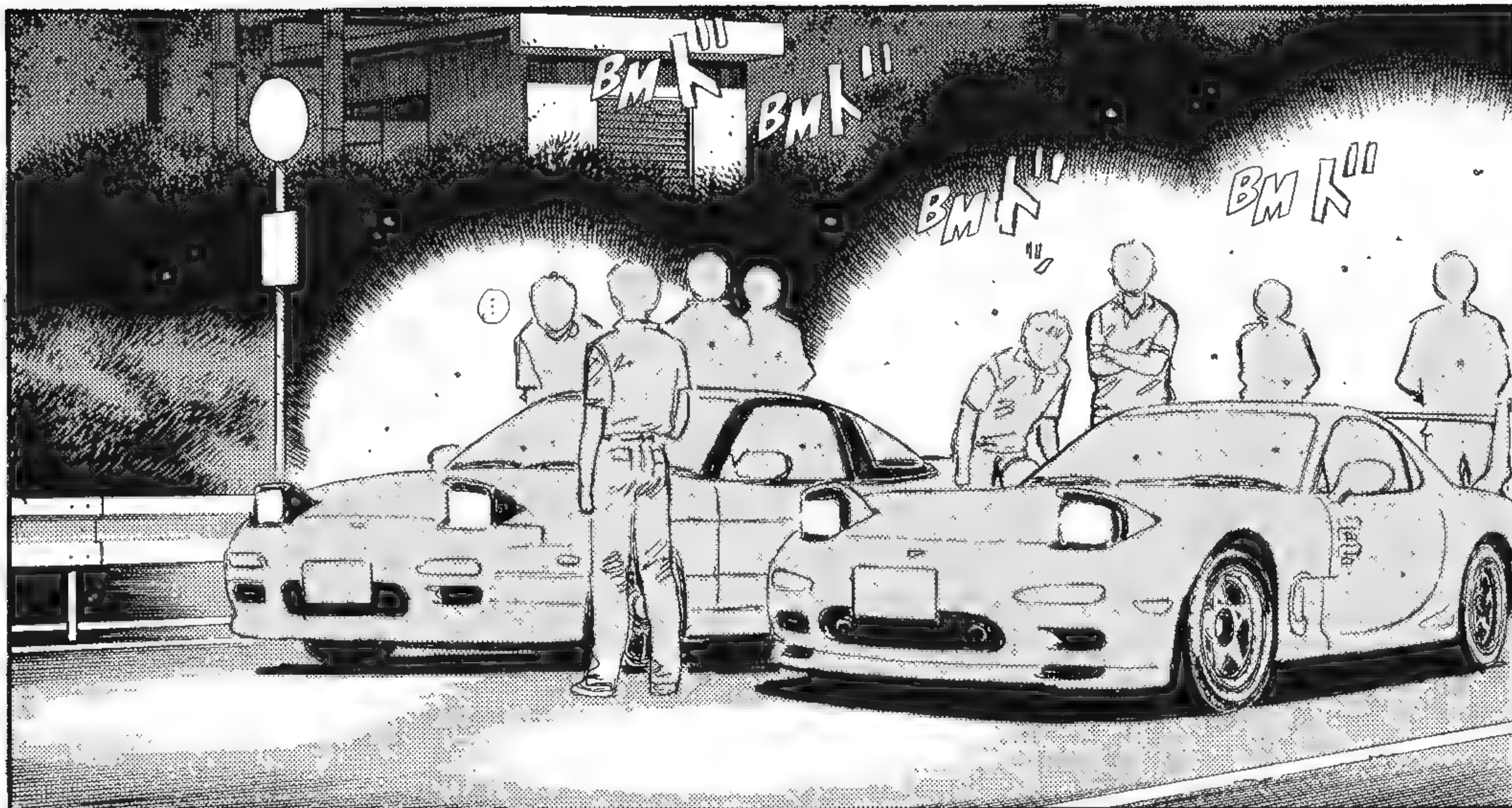
EVERYONE'S  
AT THEIR  
CORNERS.



TIME  
TO GO.

IT'S ON  
YOU NOW,  
KENJI.



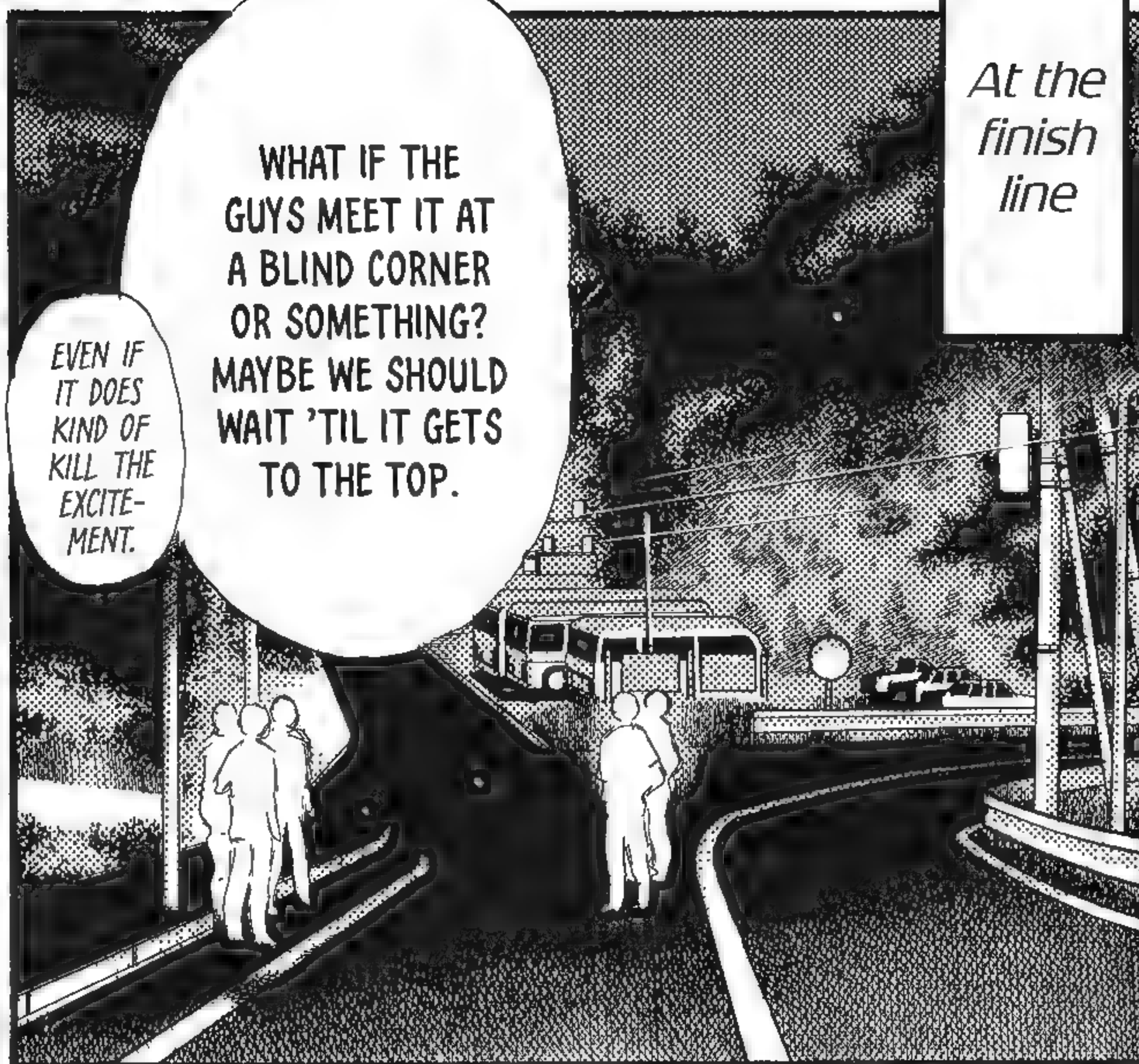






SO YOU MEET SOME ONCOMING TRAFFIC. THAT'S HOW IT GOES! START THE RUN!

NO WAY. THESE ARE PUBLIC ROADS, AND WE ALL KNOW IT.



EVEN IF IT DOES KIND OF KILL THE EXCITEMENT.

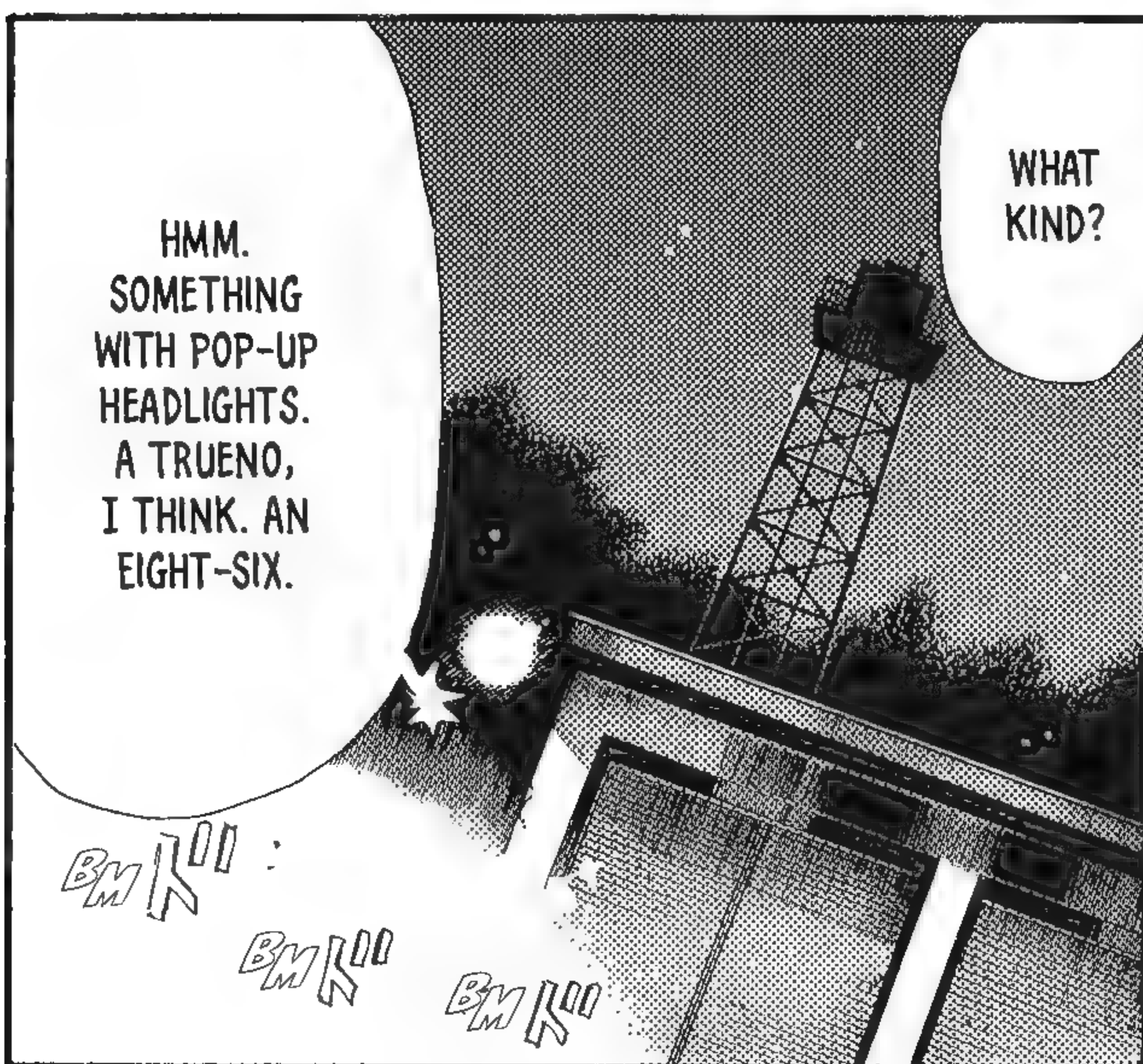
WHAT IF THE GUYS MEET IT AT A BLIND CORNER OR SOMETHING? MAYBE WE SHOULD WAIT 'TIL IT GETS TO THE TOP.

At the finish line



WHAT KIND WAS IT? ASK HIM!

WAIT JUST A SECOND! THE CAR THAT WENT BY...



HMM. SOMETHING WITH POP-UP HEADLIGHTS. A TRUENO, I THINK. AN EIGHT-SIX.

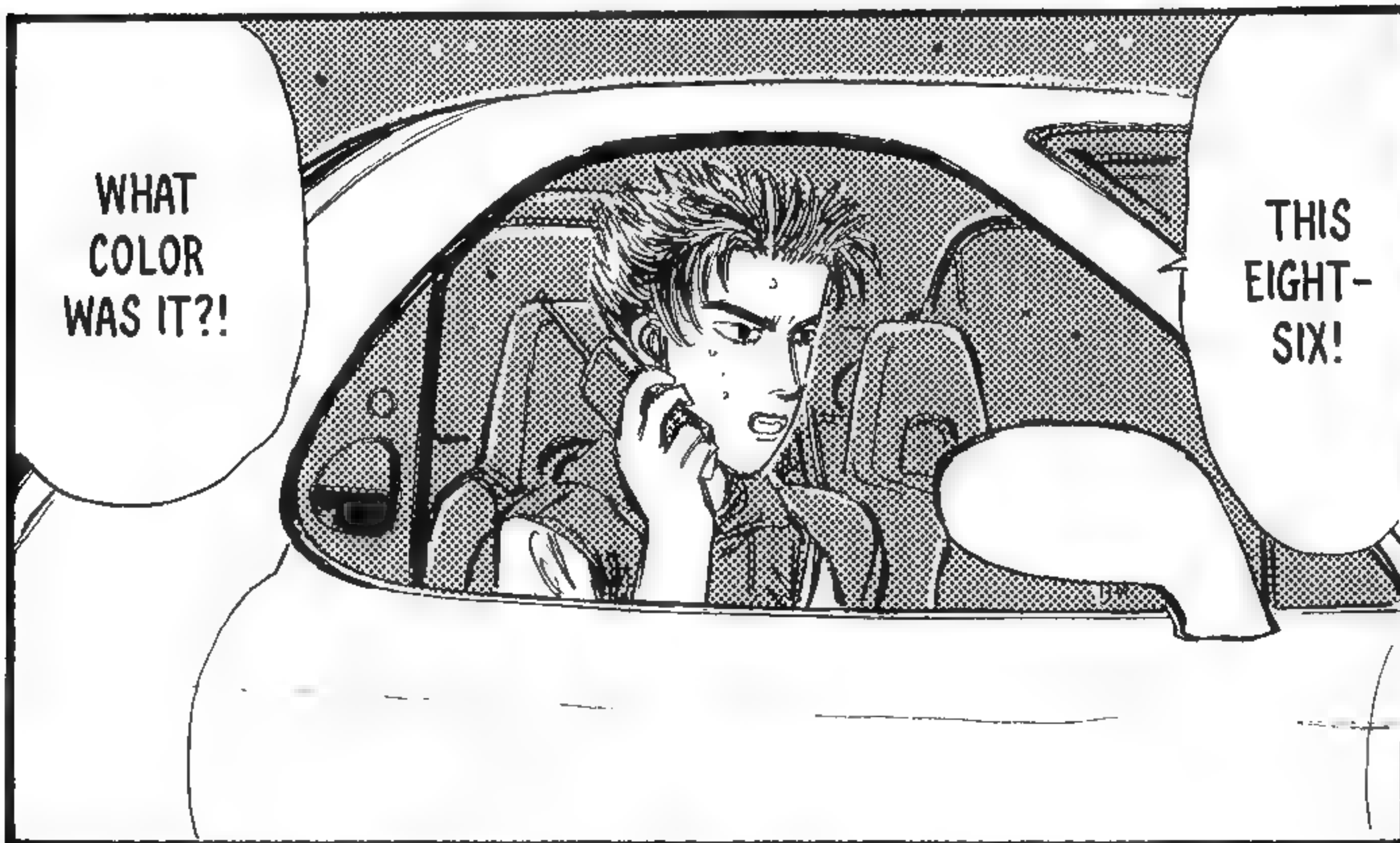
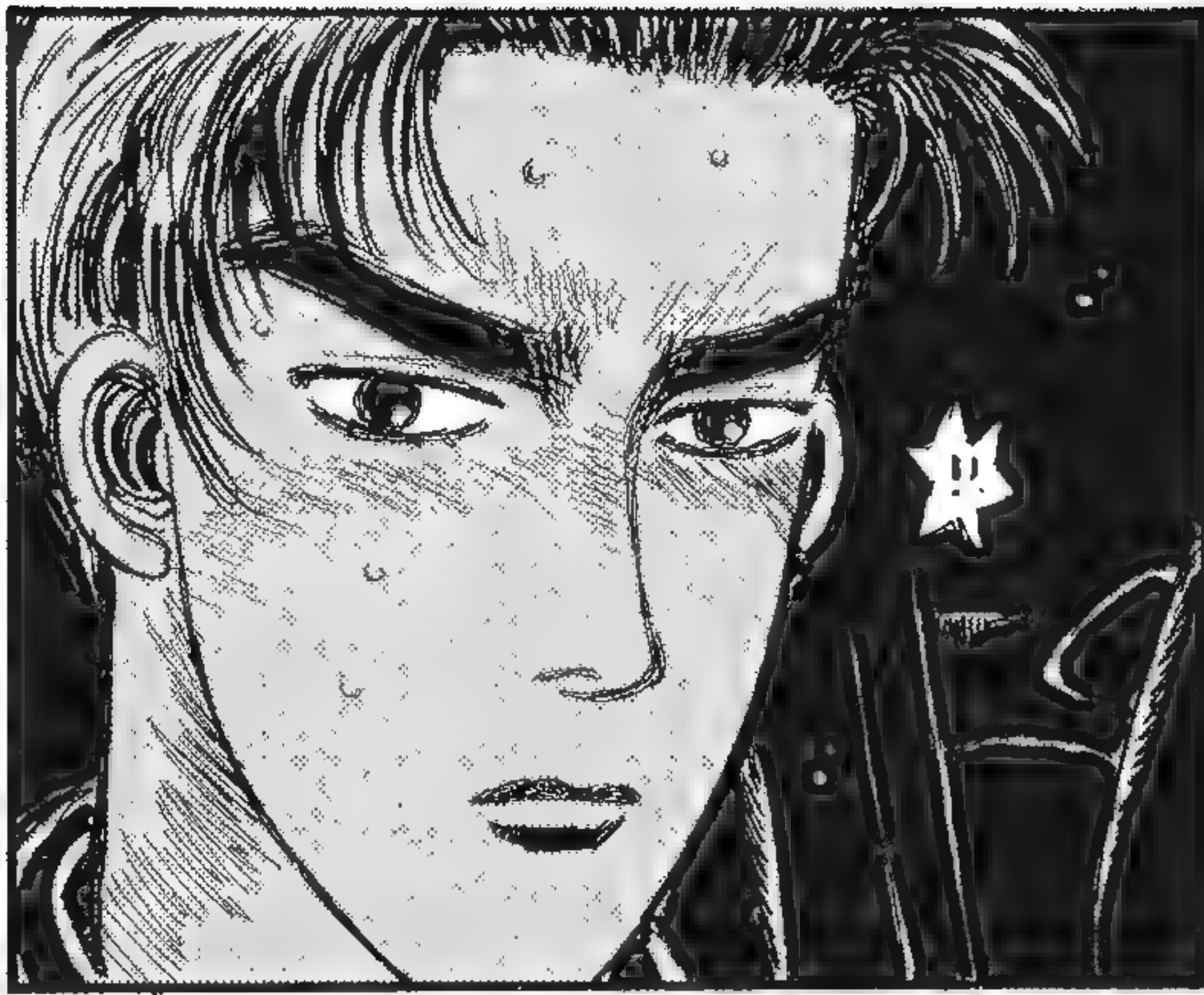
WHAT KIND?



START LINE HERE. DID YOU CATCH WHAT KIND IT WAS? THIS CAR ON ITS WAY UP?

WHY DOES HE CARE ABOUT THAT?





WHAT  
COLOR  
WAS IT?!

THIS  
EIGHT-  
SIX!



GIMME  
THAT  
PHONE!



WHY'S EVERY-  
ONE GIVING  
ME THE THIRD  
DEGREE ABOUT  
THIS CAR? IT  
WAS BLACK  
AND WHITE,  
MAN. A PANDA  
TRUENO!

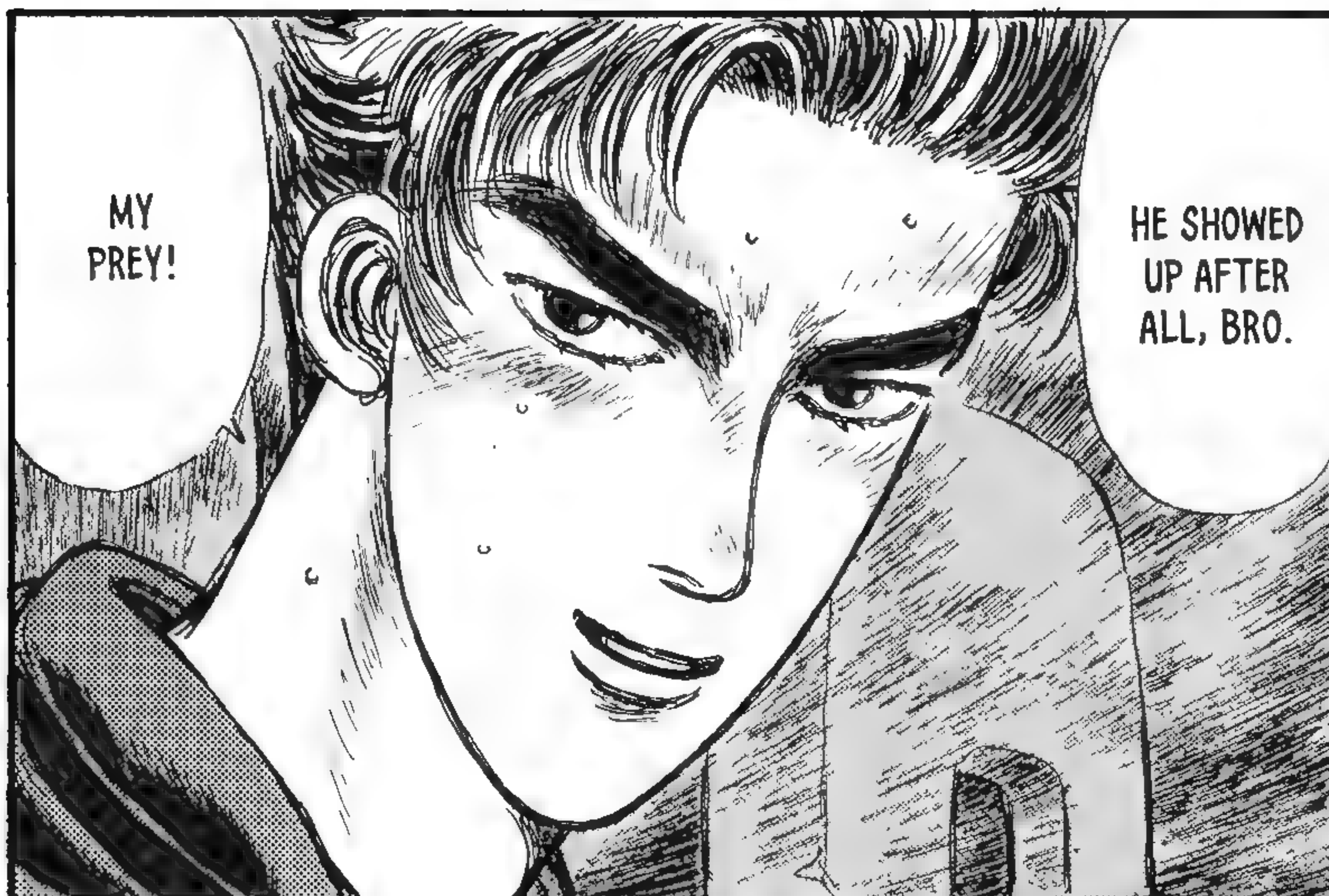
THE  
COLOR  
?!



HE'S  
HERE!!







MY  
PREY!

HE SHOWED  
UP AFTER  
ALL, BRO.



HEH  
HEH  
HEH!



I  
KNOW WHO MY  
REAL OPPONENT  
IS, AND IT'S NOT  
THIS PUTTERING  
180!

SHWIP

HELL  
NO, YOU  
SHOULDN'T!  
NOBODY  
RUNS UNTIL  
THAT EIGHT-  
SIX GETS  
HERE!



SHOULD  
I GO AHEAD  
AND COUNT  
DOWN,  
KEISUKE?

BM K  
BM K



WATER IN  
THE DESERT!  
SAVED BY  
THE BELL!  
SWEET  
REPRIEVE!

YOU CAN  
GET OUT  
NOW,  
KENJI.



YEAH.  
YOU GOT  
IT.

GRIN  
にやリ



AM I  
RIGHT?





HIM SHOWING  
UP TO DEFEND  
THE PRIDE OF  
ALL AKINA  
RACERS!

WELL, IT  
DOES BRING  
A TEAR TO  
YOUR EYE...



SPEAK  
FOR  
YOURSELF!

YEAH, OKAY.  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO CRY  
ABOUT IT,  
KENJI!



THEY  
NEED TO  
HURRY UP  
AND GET  
IT OVER  
WITH.

CHATTER  
CHATTER  
T T



IT'S  
ENOUGH  
THAT HE'S  
HERE.

WIN OR  
LOSE, IT  
DOESN'T  
EVEN  
MATTER.

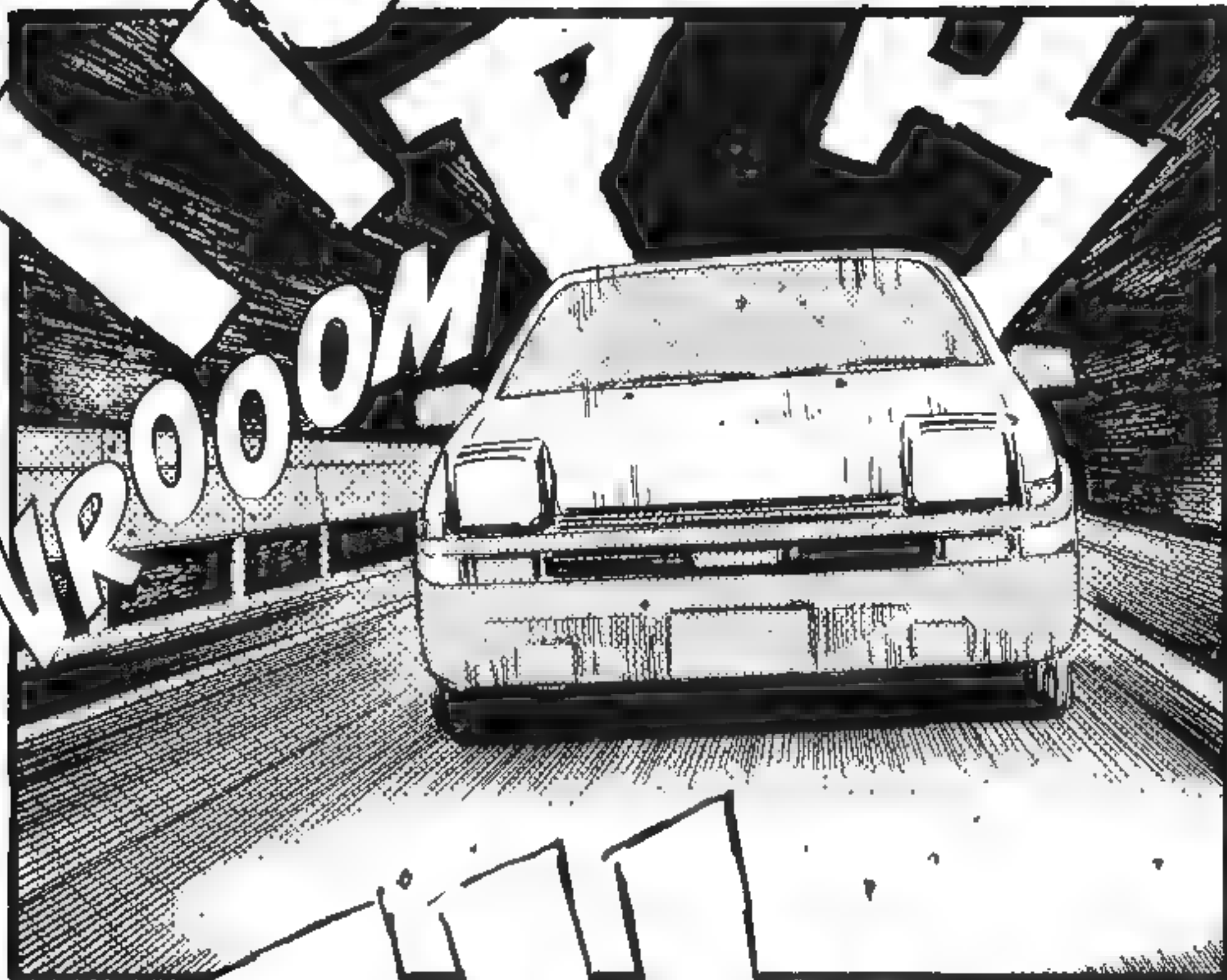




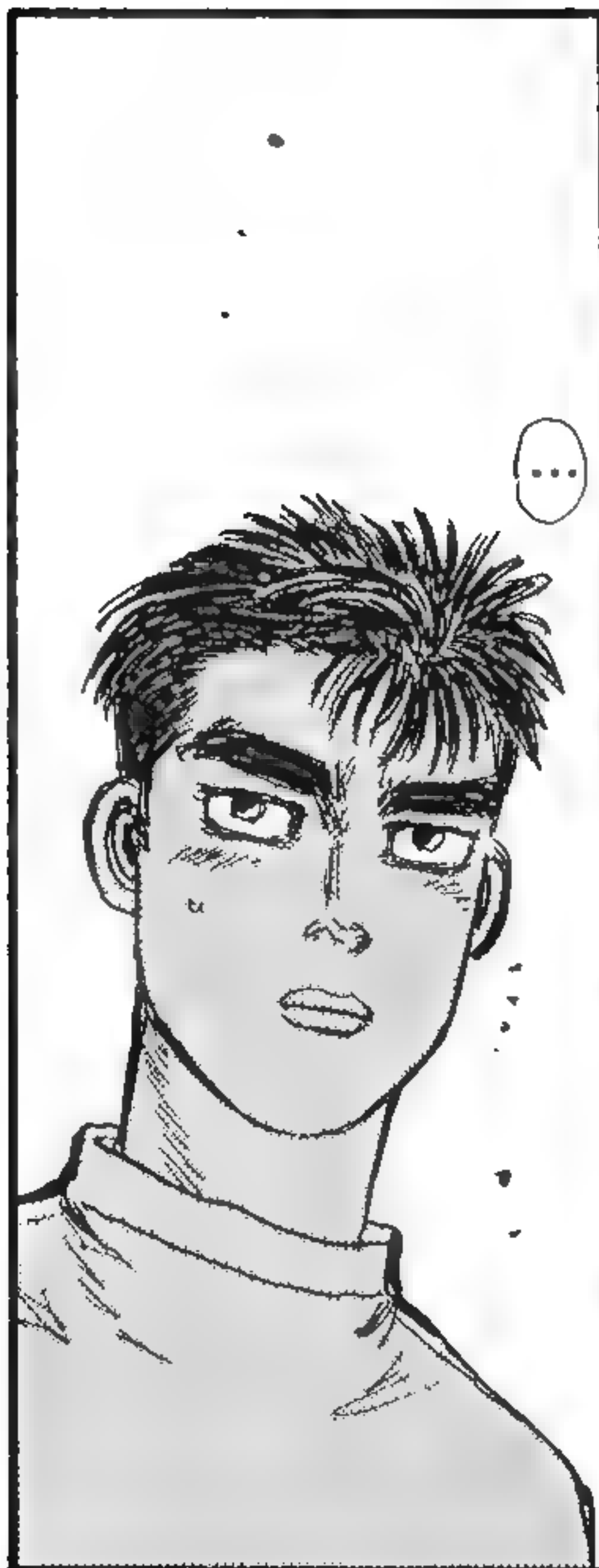


MY R32 IS THE  
FASTEST THING ON  
FOUR WHEELS ANY-  
WHERE IN GUNMA!  
A ROTARY ENGINE?  
HA! MIGHT AS  
WELL BE POWERED  
BY A POTATO!

THE SKYLINE GT-R  
IS A PURE-BLOODED  
MOTORSPORTS  
MACHINE DESIGNED  
TO DO ONE THING:  
WIN RACES.







THE WAY THE  
BACK FLOATED  
AS HE CAME  
OUT OF THAT  
CORNER! IT  
ALMOST DEFIES  
DESCRIPTION!



I LIKE  
THAT!

YOU SEE THAT  
EIGHT-SIX  
GO BY?



YOU  
SEE 'EM  
ON EVERY  
MOUNTAIN  
IN JAPAN.



TO ME  
HE JUST  
LOOKED  
LIKE ONE OF  
THOSE PUNK  
EIGHT-SIX  
DRIVERS.

UH...  
IT MIGHT  
HAVE GONE  
A LITTLE  
OVER MY  
HEAD...

CAN'T  
YOU  
TELL?





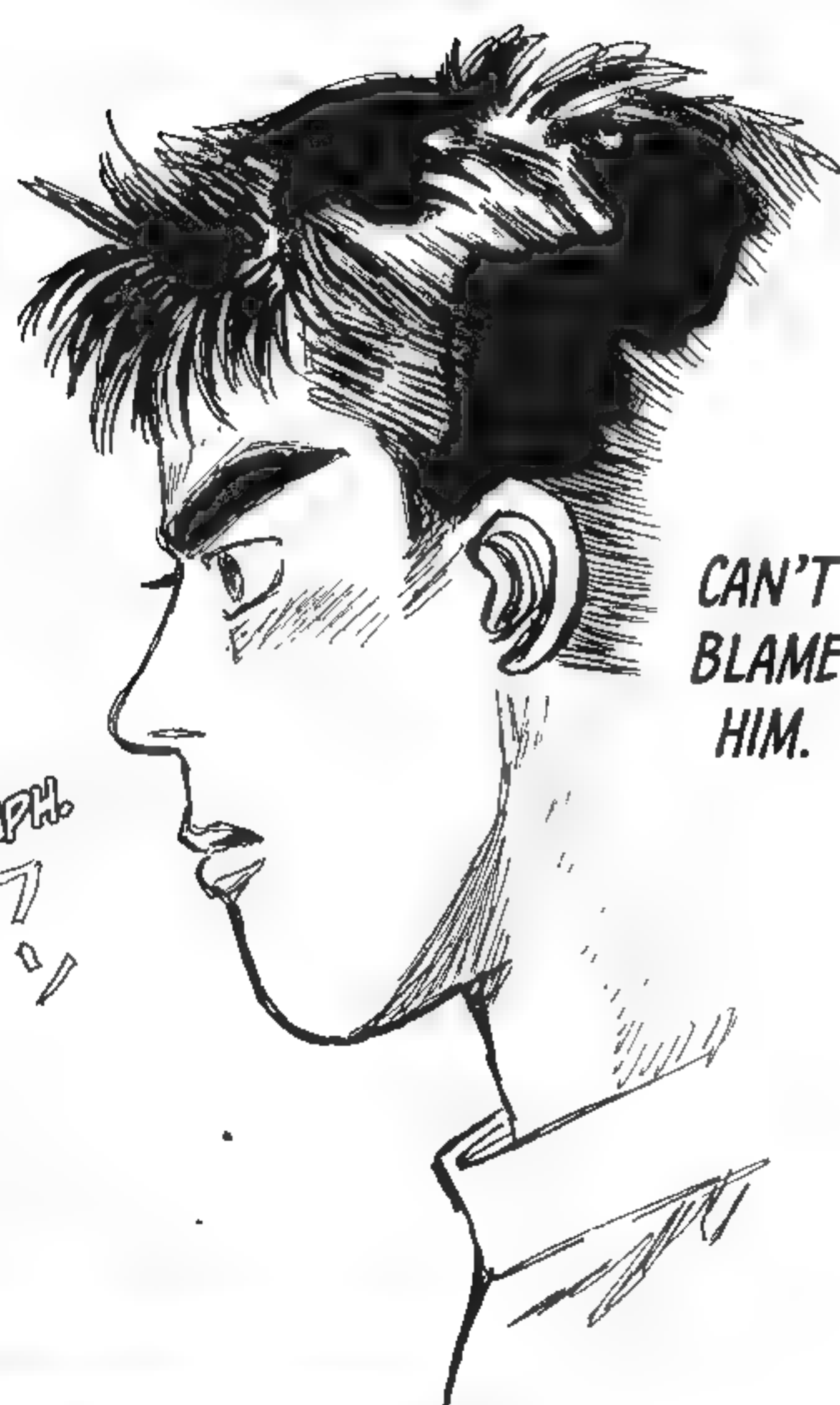
THERE'S AN  
AURA ABOUT  
A CAR WHEN  
THE DRIVER  
FEELS IT AS  
AN EXTENSION  
OF HIMSELF.



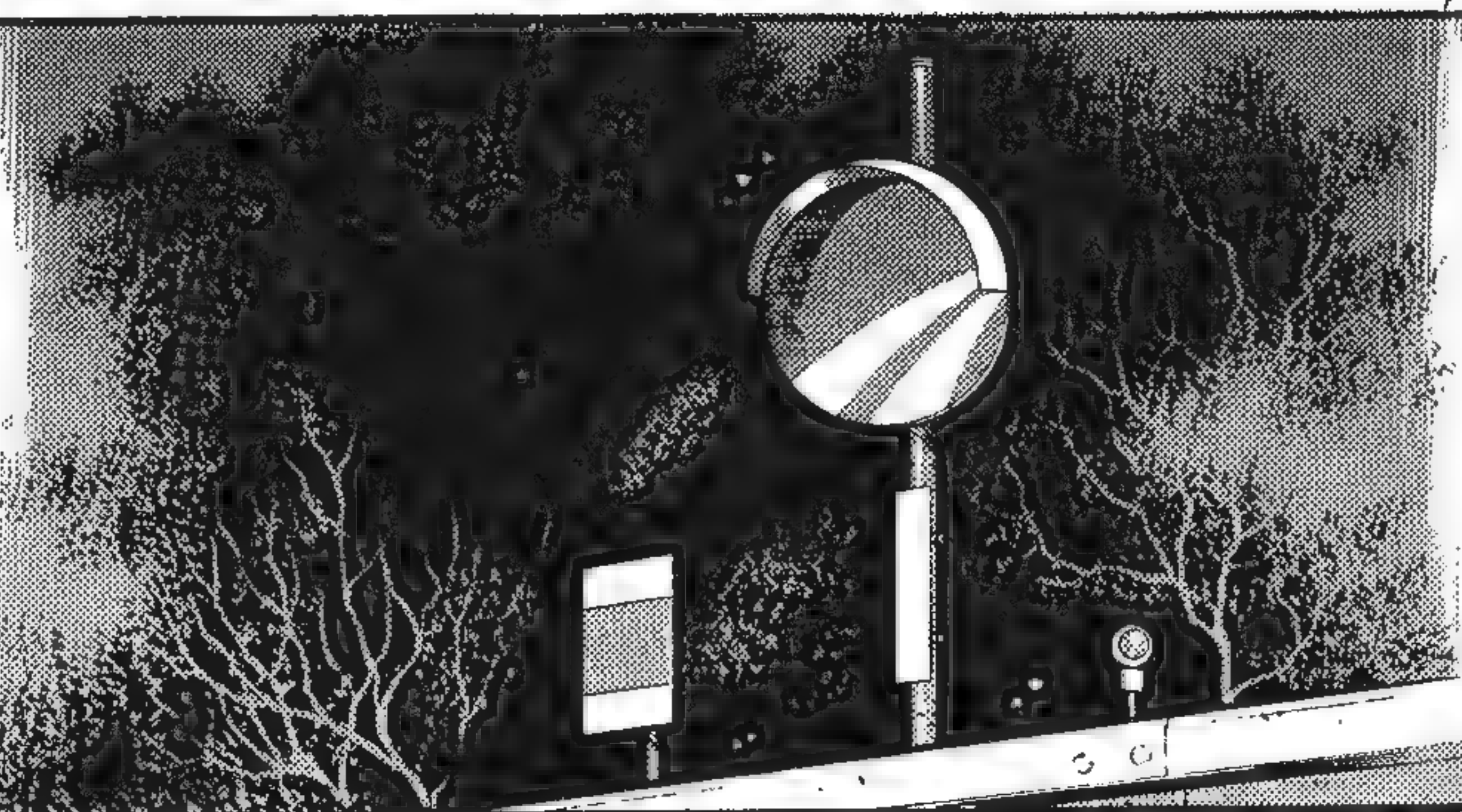
IF YOU  
KNOW,  
YOU KNOW.  
AND IF YOU  
DON'T,  
WELL...

MMH  
7

CAN'T  
BLAME  
HIM.



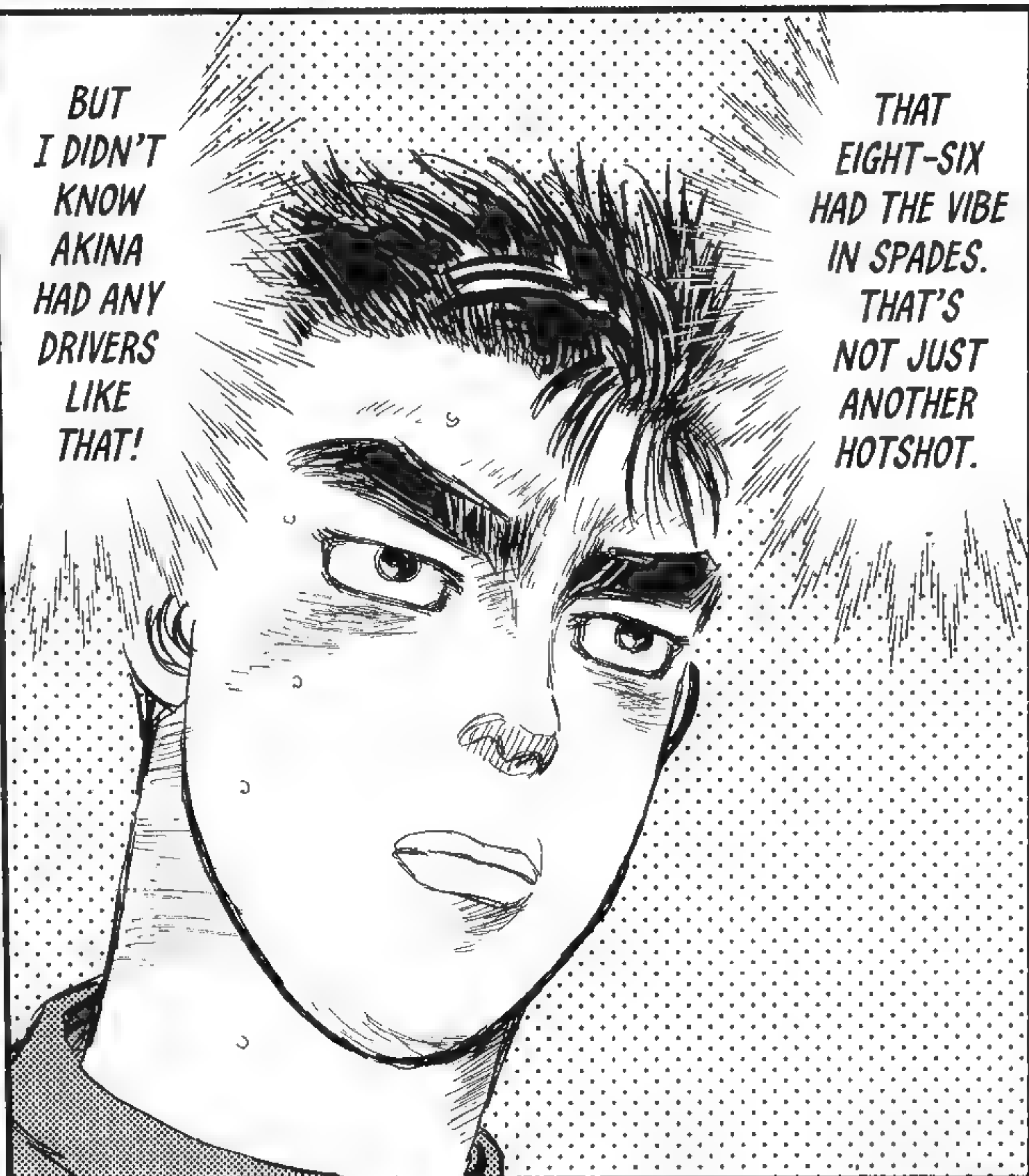
RYOSUKE  
TAKAHASHI,  
HIS DRIVING  
HAS THAT AURA.  
KEISUKE...  
JUST A HINT  
OF IT, BUT  
IT'S THERE.



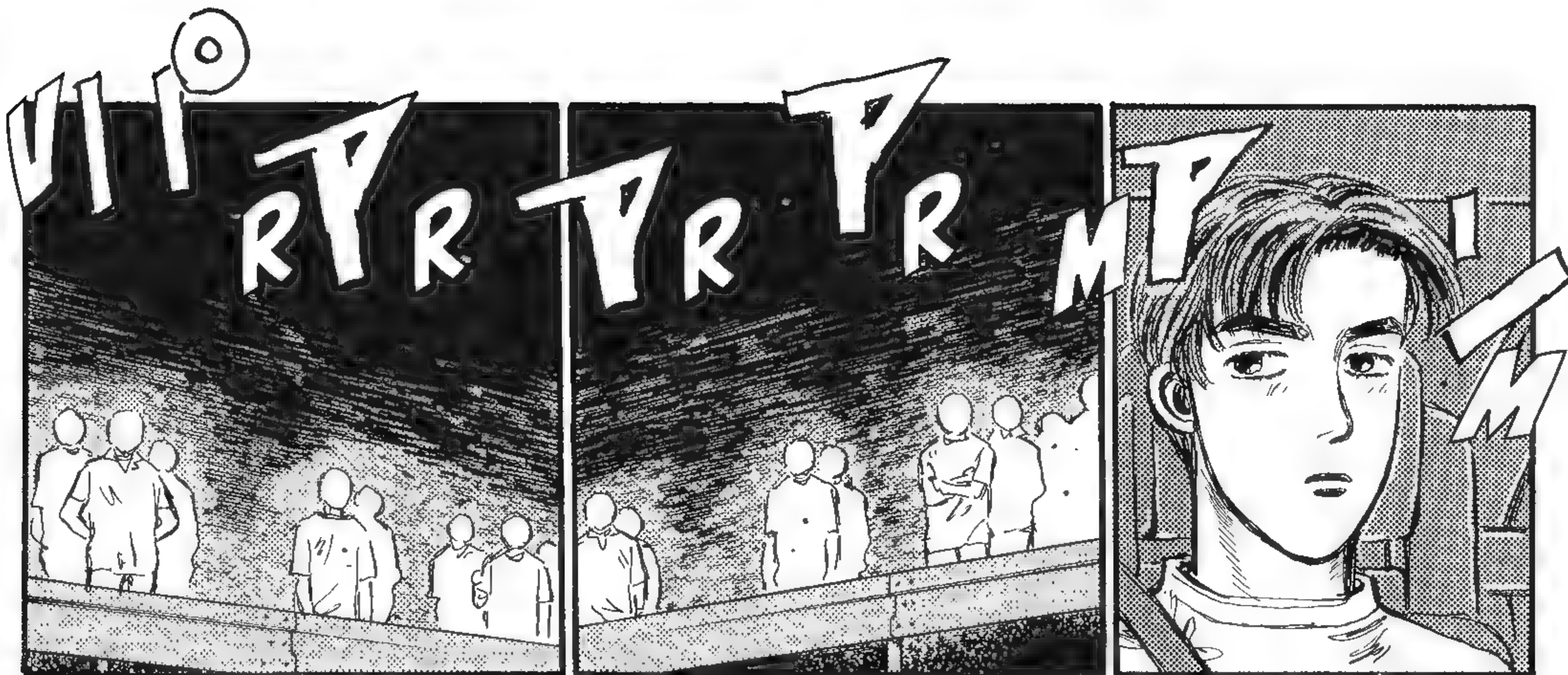
OTHER  
RACERS  
WHO ARE  
THE SAME  
WAY CAN  
SEE IT.

BUT  
I DIDN'T  
KNOW  
AKINA  
HAD ANY  
DRIVERS  
LIKE  
THAT!

THAT  
EIGHT-SIX  
HAD THE VIBE  
IN SPADES.  
THAT'S  
NOT JUST  
ANOTHER  
HOTSHOT.



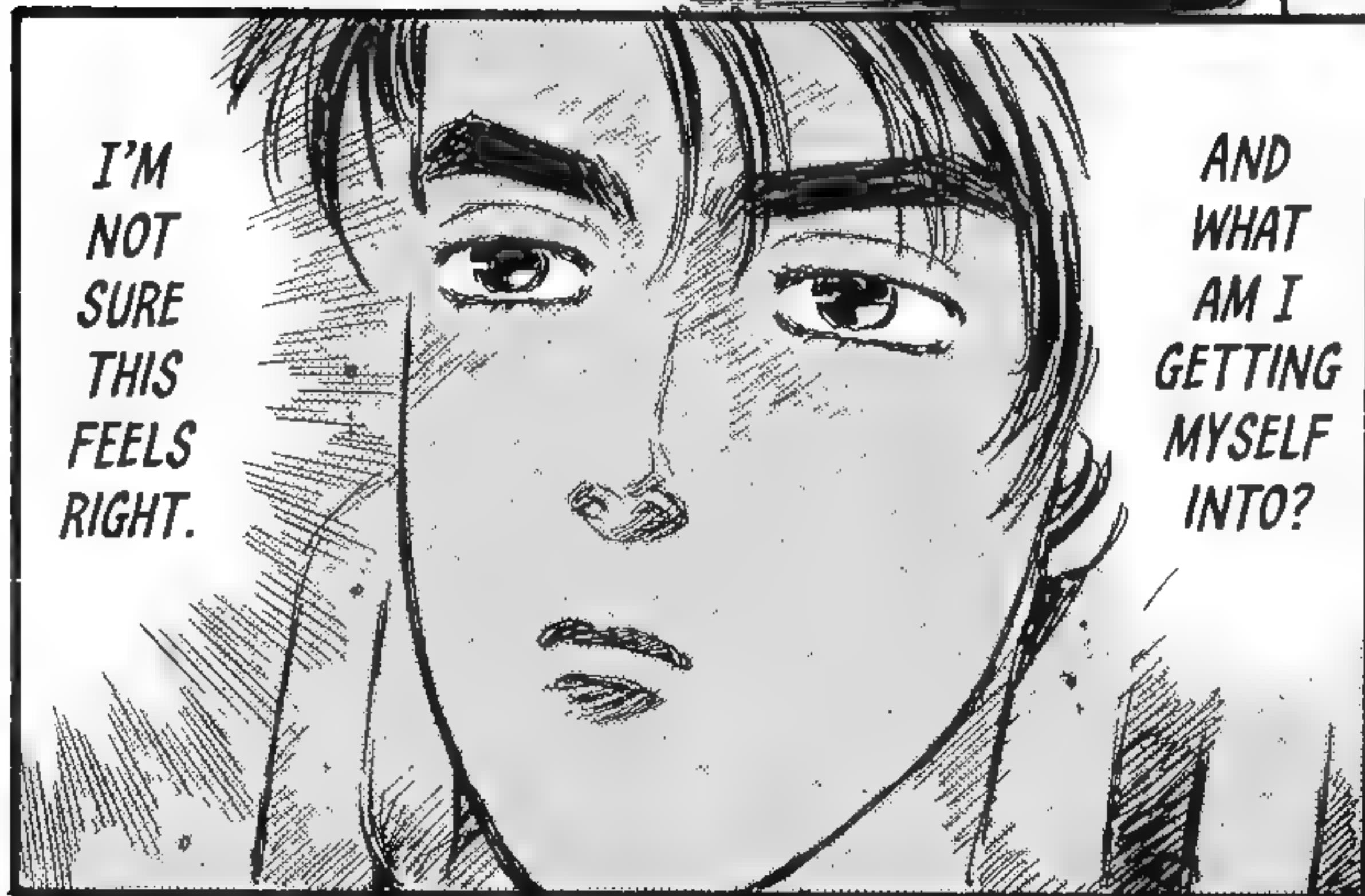




THERE'S  
A CROWD  
BY EVERY  
CURVE.



GEEZ.  
WHAT'S  
UP WITH  
THIS?

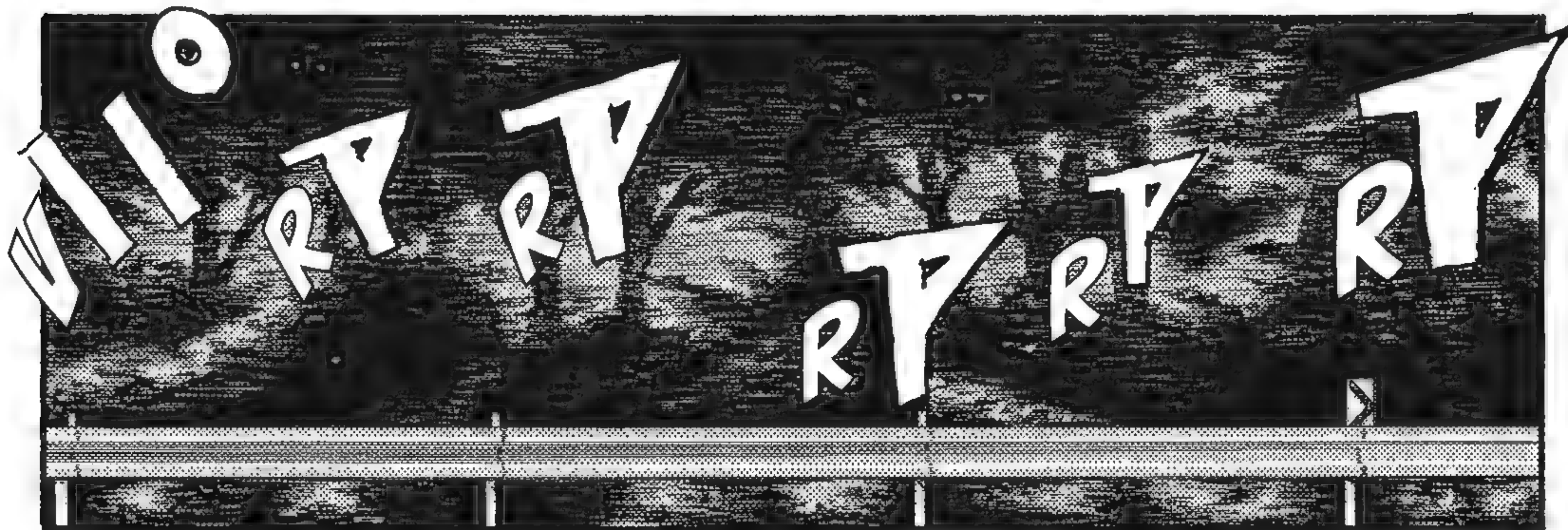


I'M  
NOT  
SURE  
THIS  
FEELS  
RIGHT.

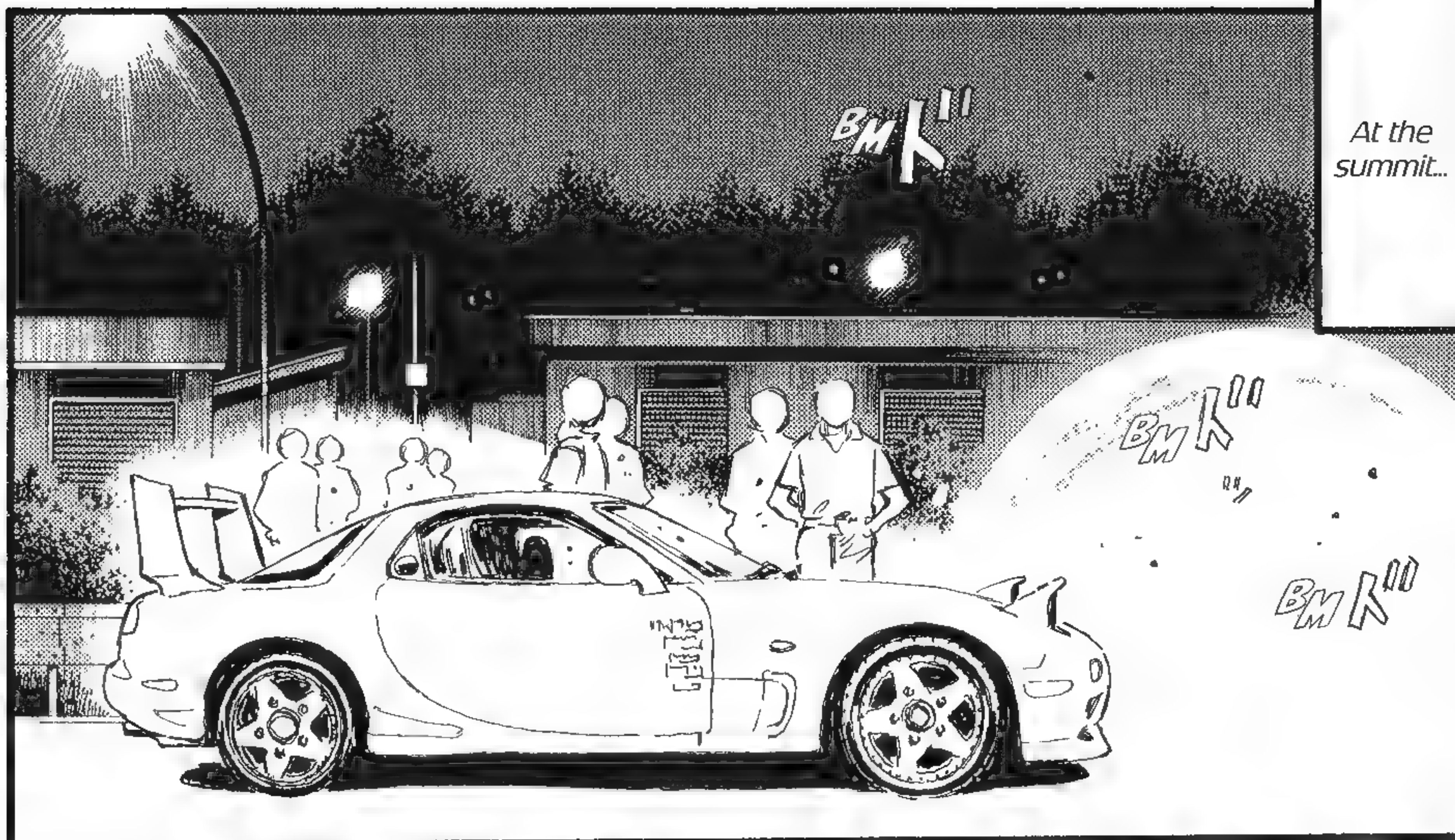
AND  
WHAT  
AM I  
GETTING  
MYSELF  
INTO?

WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?

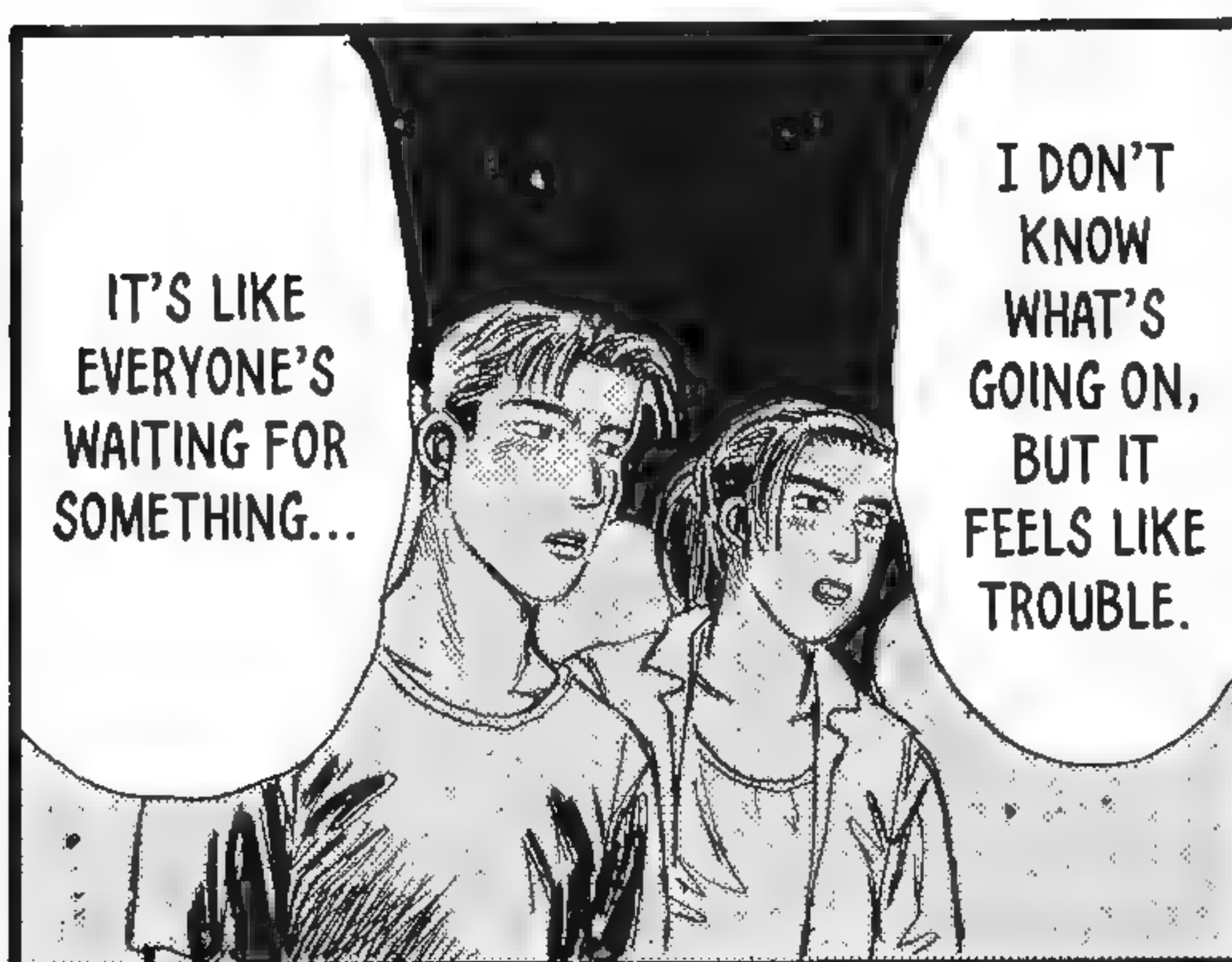
WHAT  
ARE THEY  
ALL HERE  
FOR?







At the summit...



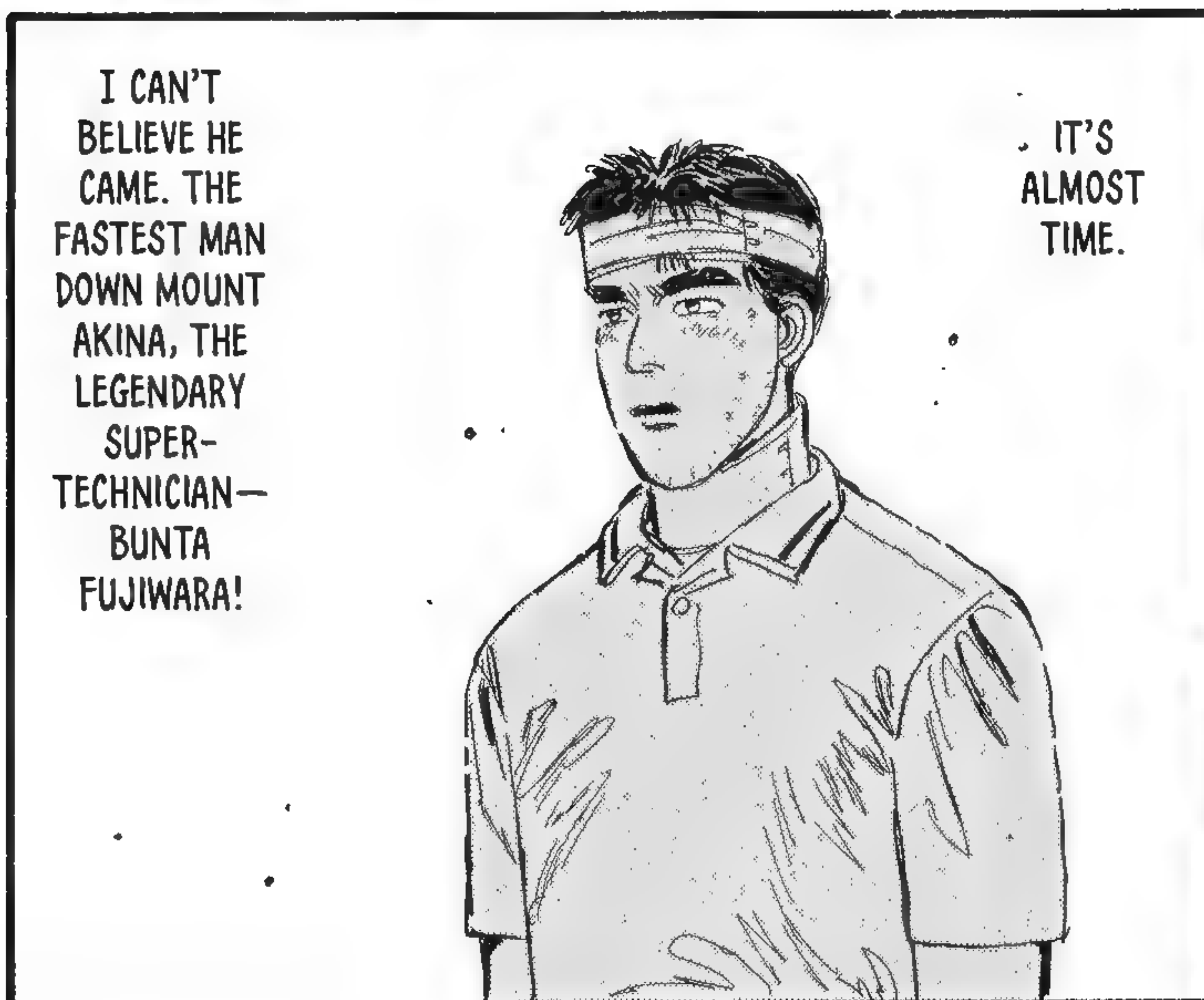
IT'S LIKE EVERYONE'S WAITING FOR SOMETHING...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT IT FEELS LIKE TROUBLE.



BUT THEN THE 180SX PEELED OFF AND THE FD'S JUST BEEN SITTING THERE EVER SINCE!

WHAT'S THE DEAL? I THOUGHT THERE WAS GONNA BE A TIME ATTACK!



I CAN'T BELIEVE HE CAME. THE FASTEST MAN DOWN MOUNT AKINA, THE LEGENDARY SUPER-TECHNICIAN—BUNTA FUJIWARA!

IT'S ALMOST TIME.







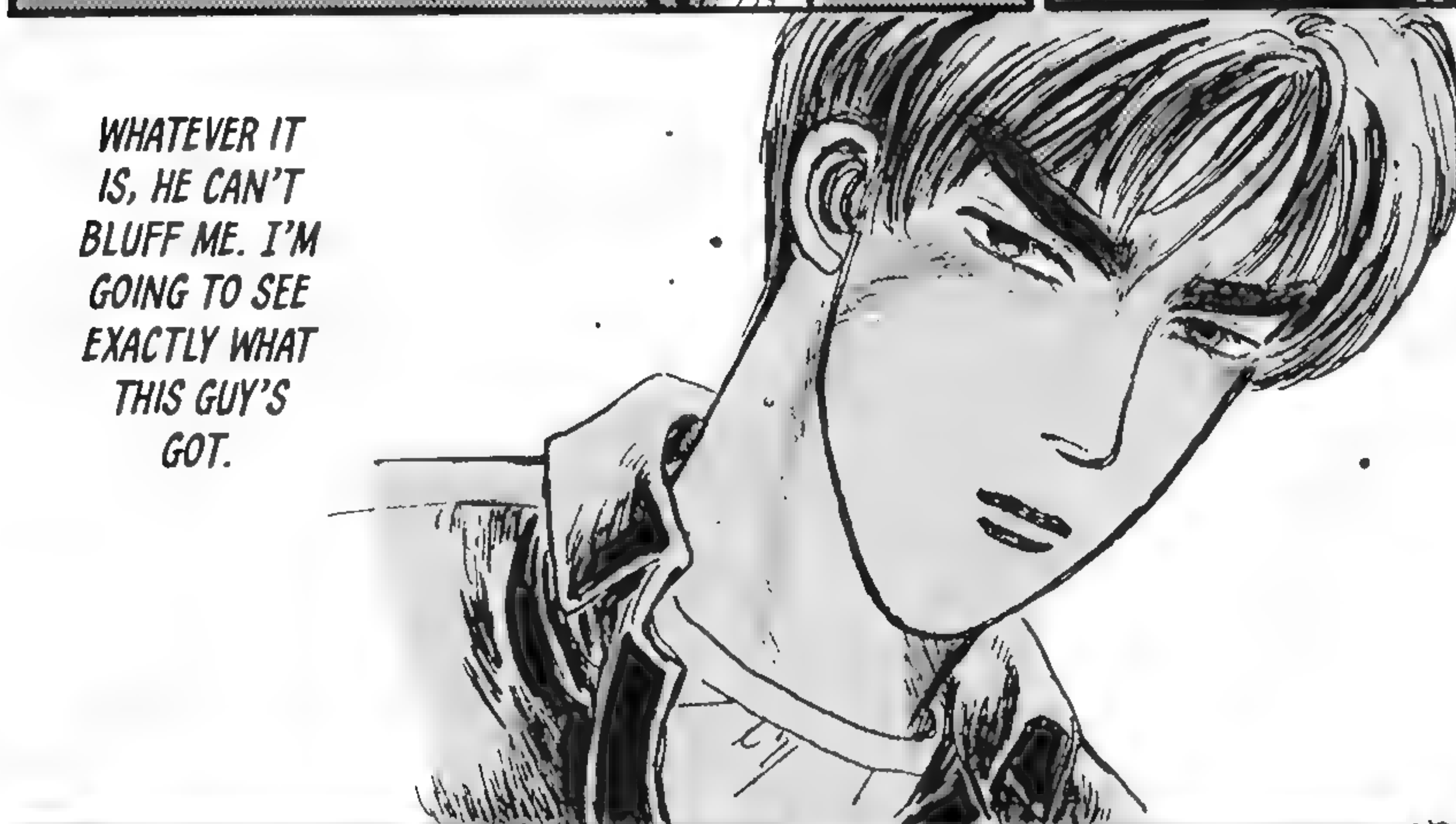
IT'S GOOD  
TO FEEL  
SOME  
EXCITE-  
MENT FOR  
A RACE  
AGAIN!

COME ON,  
THEN! CAN'T  
WAIT TO SEE  
WHO'S IN  
THAT CAR.



...JUST  
WHAT  
AKINA IS  
REALLY  
MADE OF!

HE'LL  
SHOW THE  
TAKAHASHI  
BROTHERS...

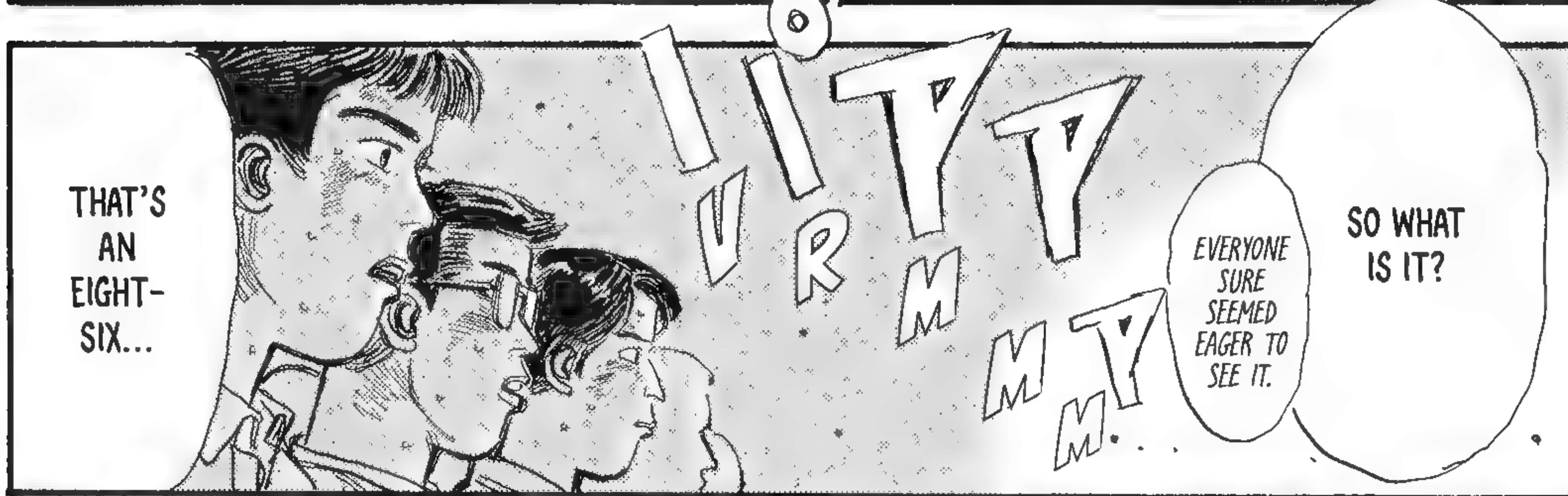


WHATEVER IT  
IS, HE CAN'T  
BLUFF ME. I'M  
GOING TO SEE  
EXACTLY WHAT  
THIS GUY'S  
GOT.

WHOEVER  
IT IS, THEY  
KNOW HOW  
TO MAKE AN  
ENTRANCE.  
WHO'S  
DRIVING? AND  
WHAT IS HE  
DRIVING?









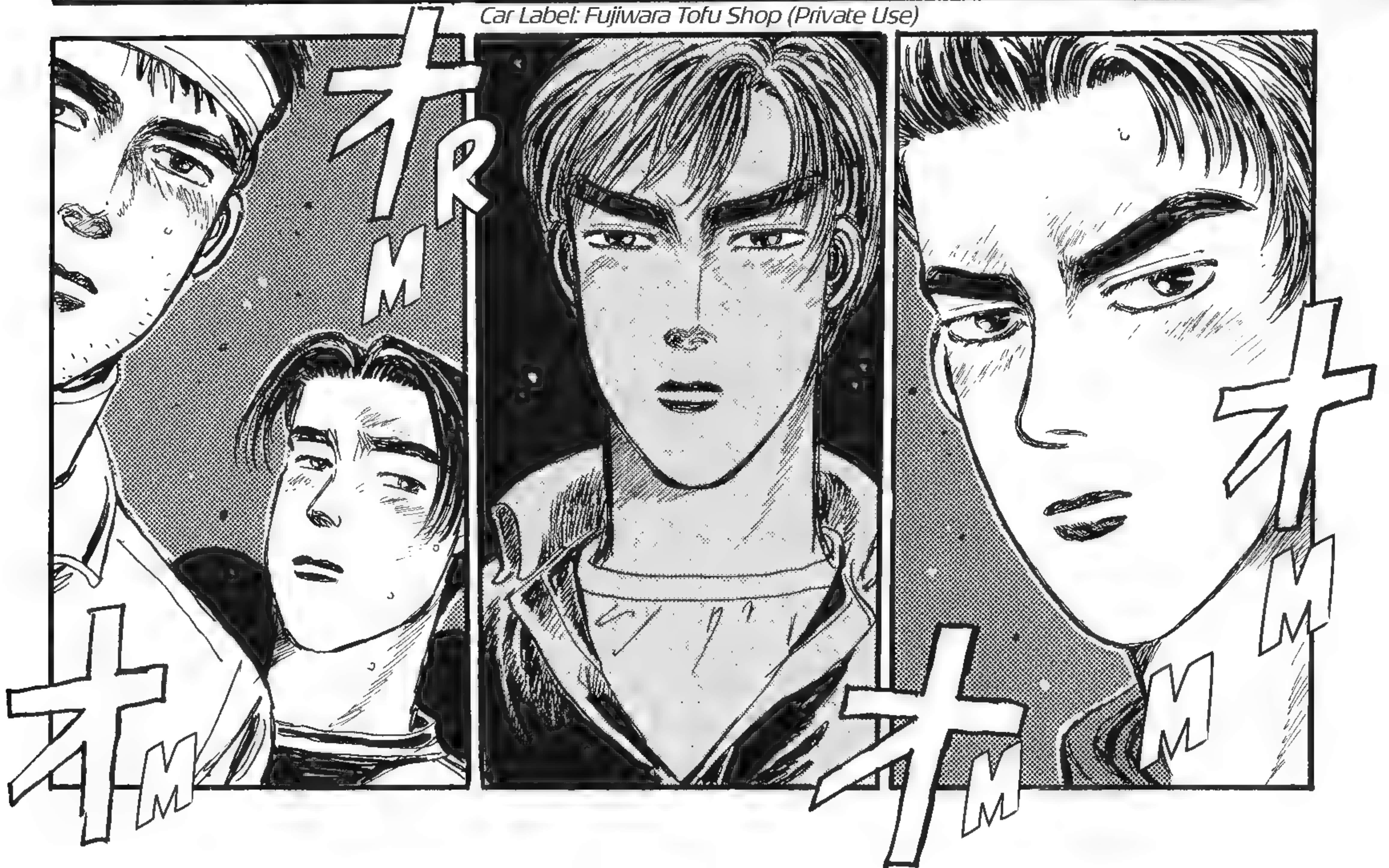
► *Ch. 11: Takumi's Blinding Speed*



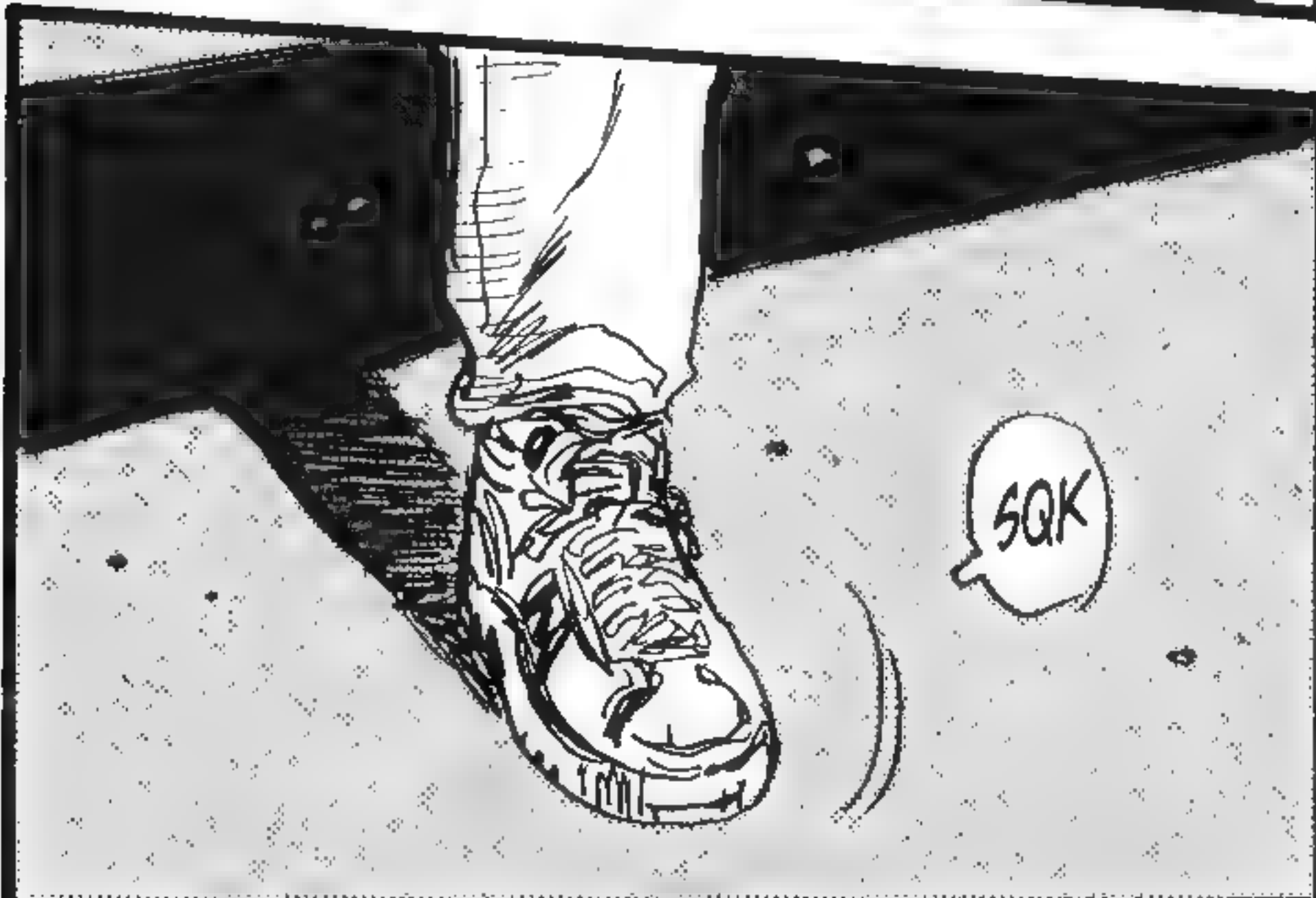
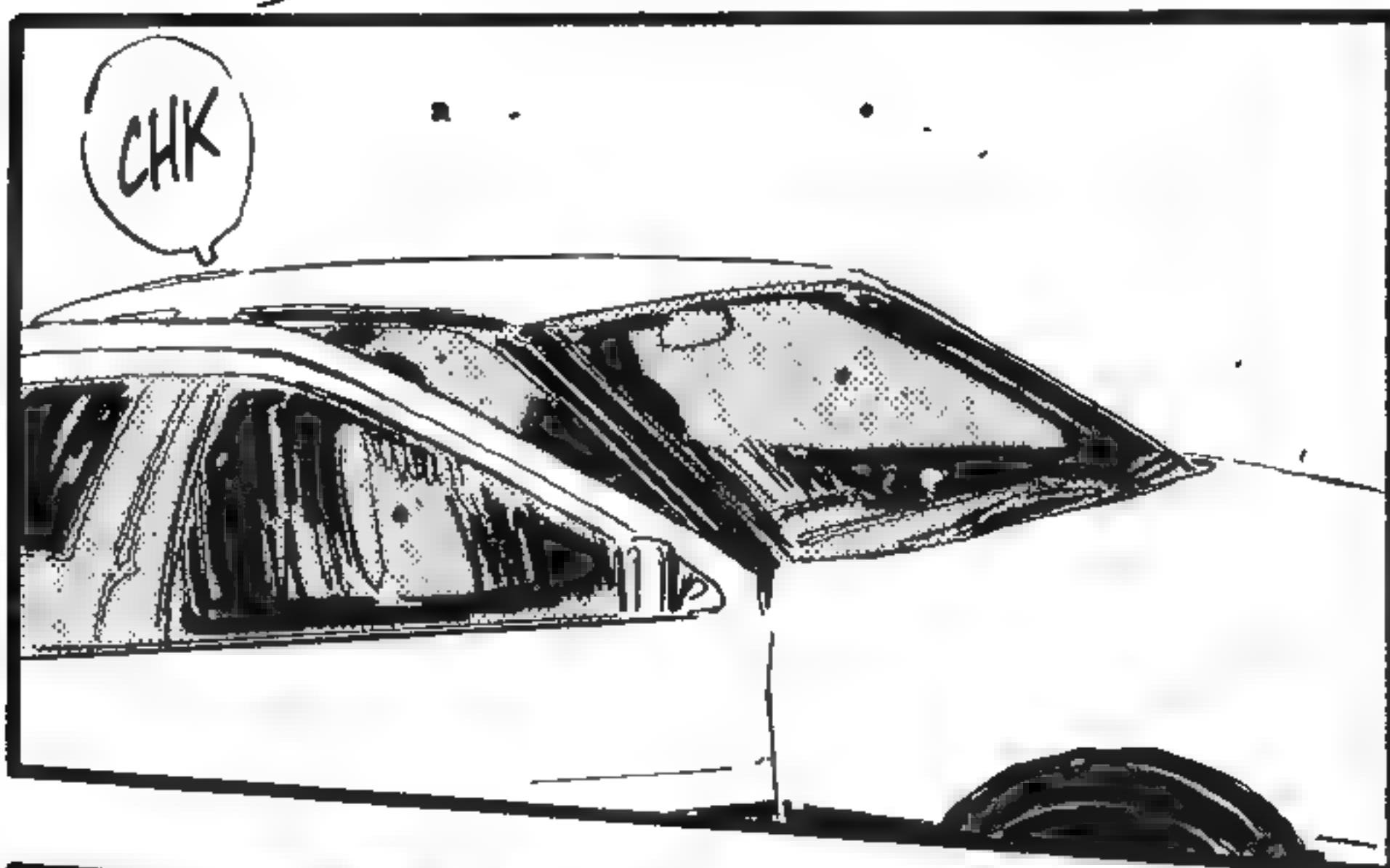
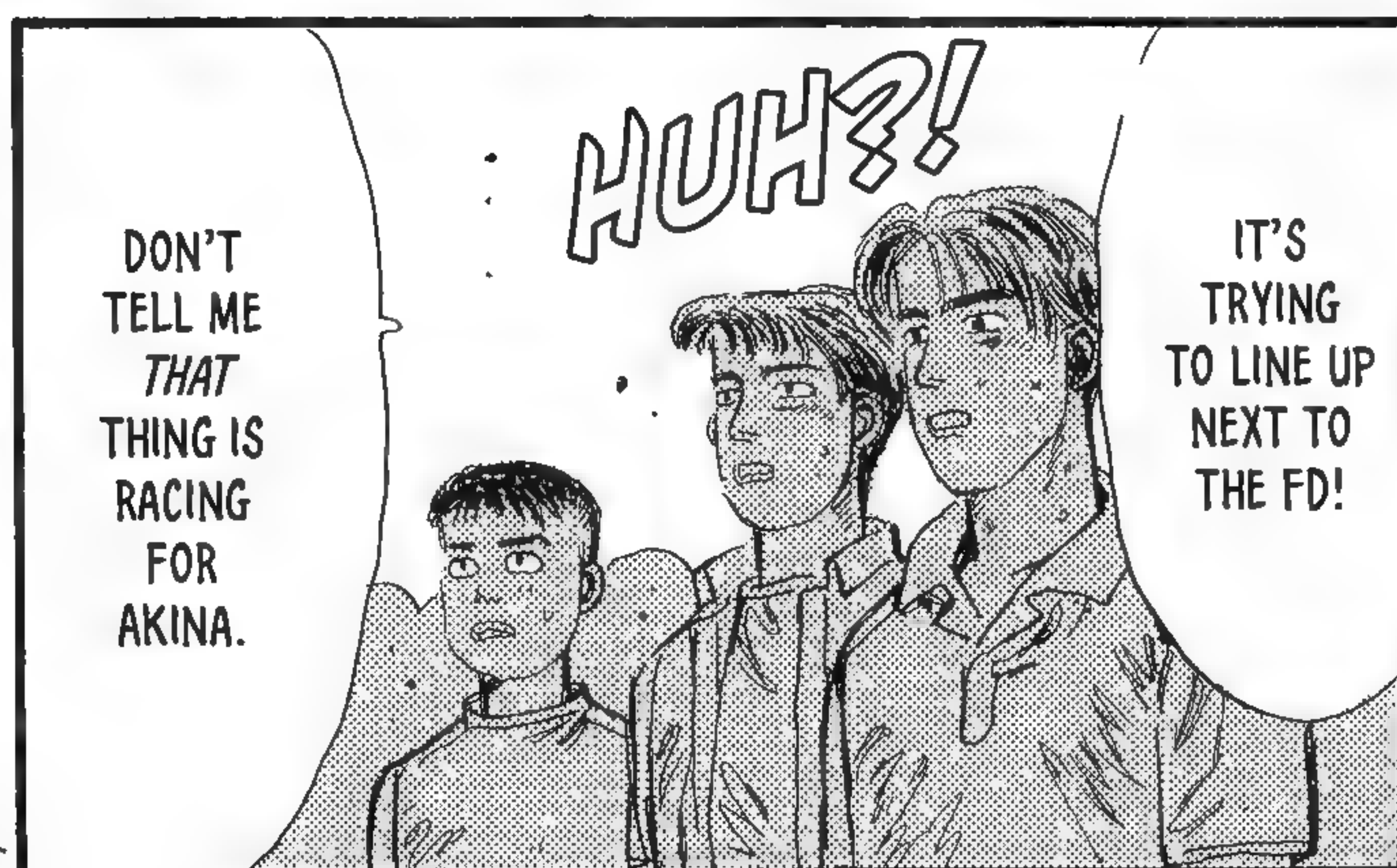




Car Label: Fujiwara Tofu Shop (Private Use)



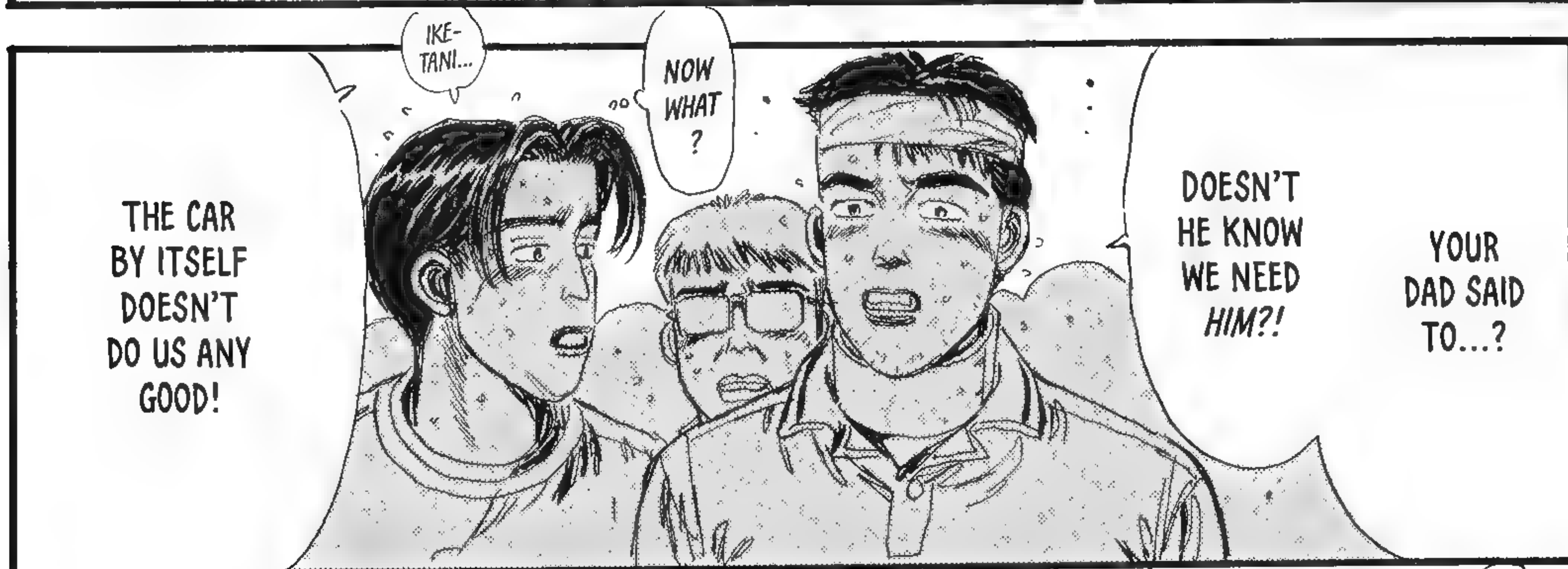
















BUT I MEAN,  
THAT'S ALL,  
I SWEAR.

HE TOLD  
ME TO BEAT  
THE RX-7  
ON AKINA'S  
DOWNHILL.



YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
DRIVE?!



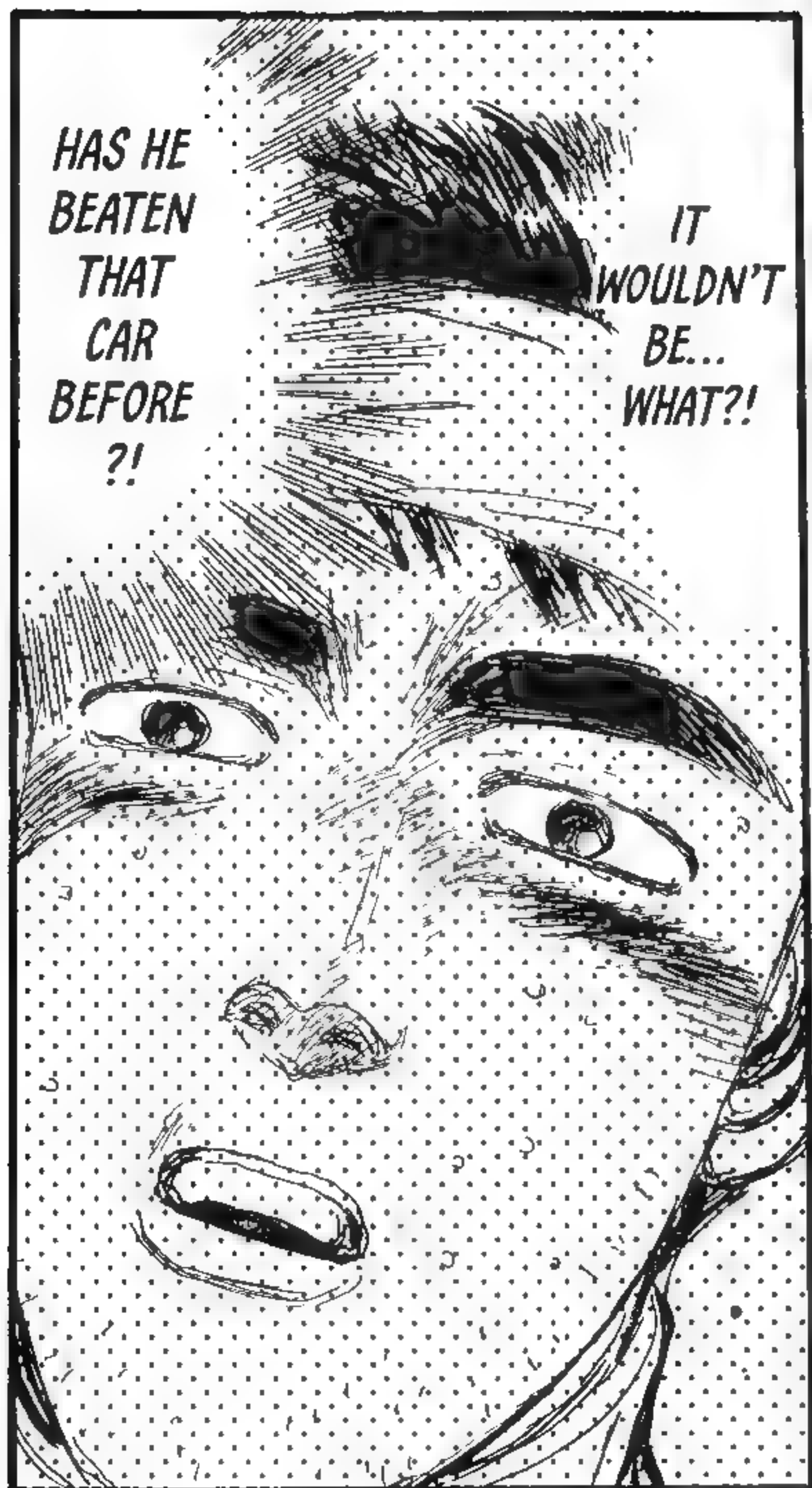
I MEAN... I  
DON'T KNOW.  
GOTTA TRY  
IT AND SEE, I  
GUESS.

CAN YOU  
DO THAT?  
CAN YOU  
WIN?!



WHAT'S  
GOING ON  
HERE?!





HAS HE  
BEATEN  
THAT  
CAR  
BEFORE  
?!

IT  
WOULDN'T  
BE...  
WHAT?!



BUT... IT  
WOULDN'T  
BE THE  
FIRST  
TIME.

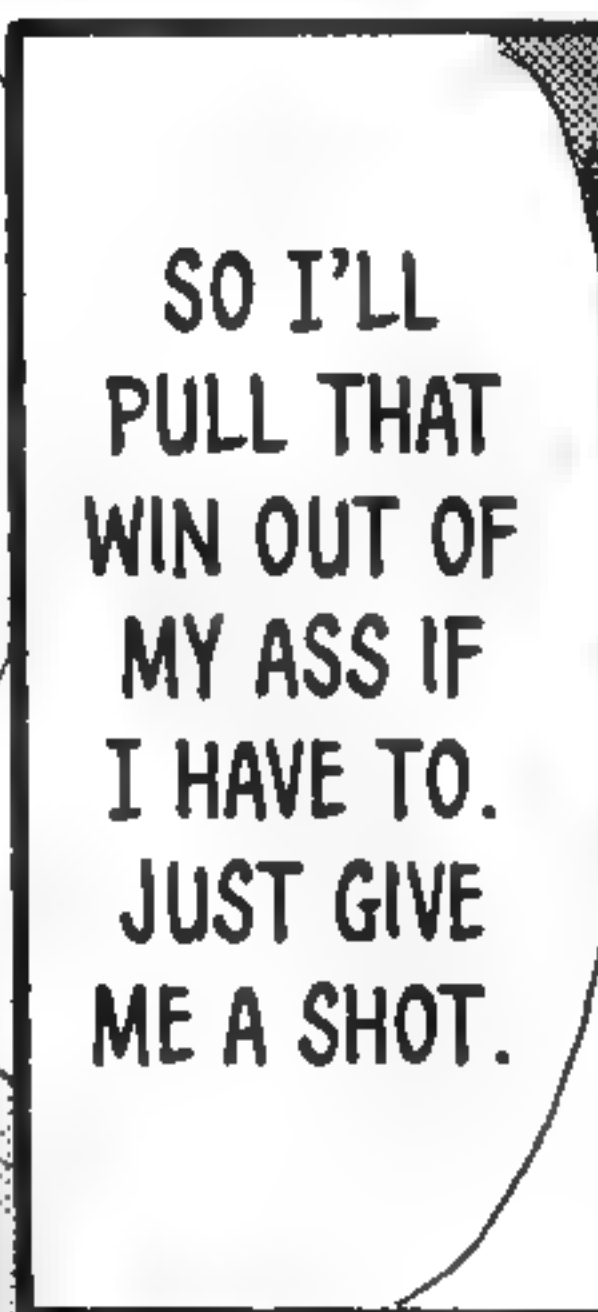


OH! UH,  
NOTHING.  
JUST  
TALKING TO  
MYSELF.

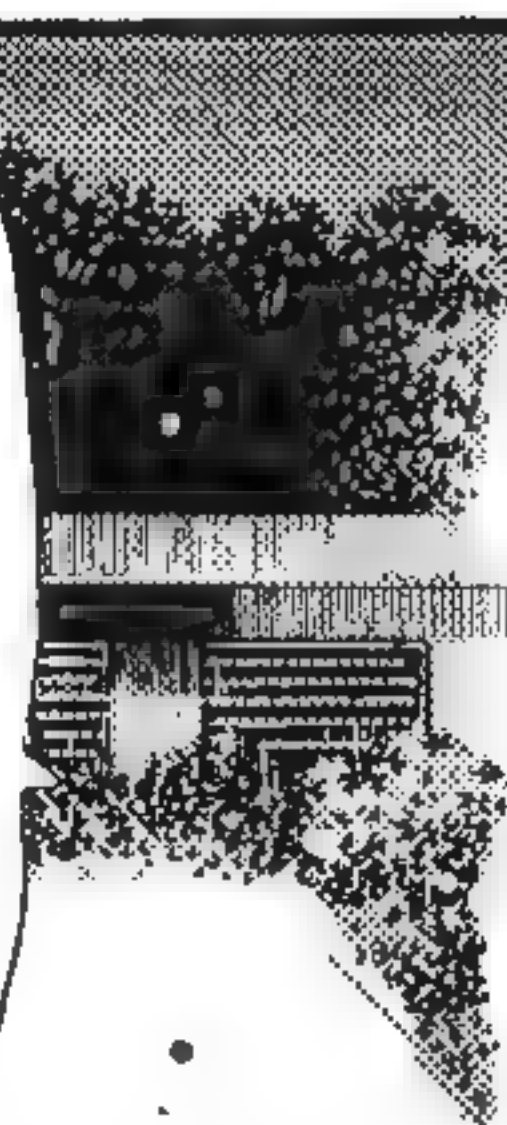


I'M  
SORRY?

WHAT WAS  
THAT?



SO I'LL  
PULL THAT  
WIN OUT OF  
MY ASS IF  
I HAVE TO.  
JUST GIVE  
ME A SHOT.



ホ  
ッ  
GRMBL

THERE'S A  
FULL TANK  
OF GAS  
RIDING ON  
IT.



JERK!  
IDIOT!  
MORON!

OOF!

KER-WHACK

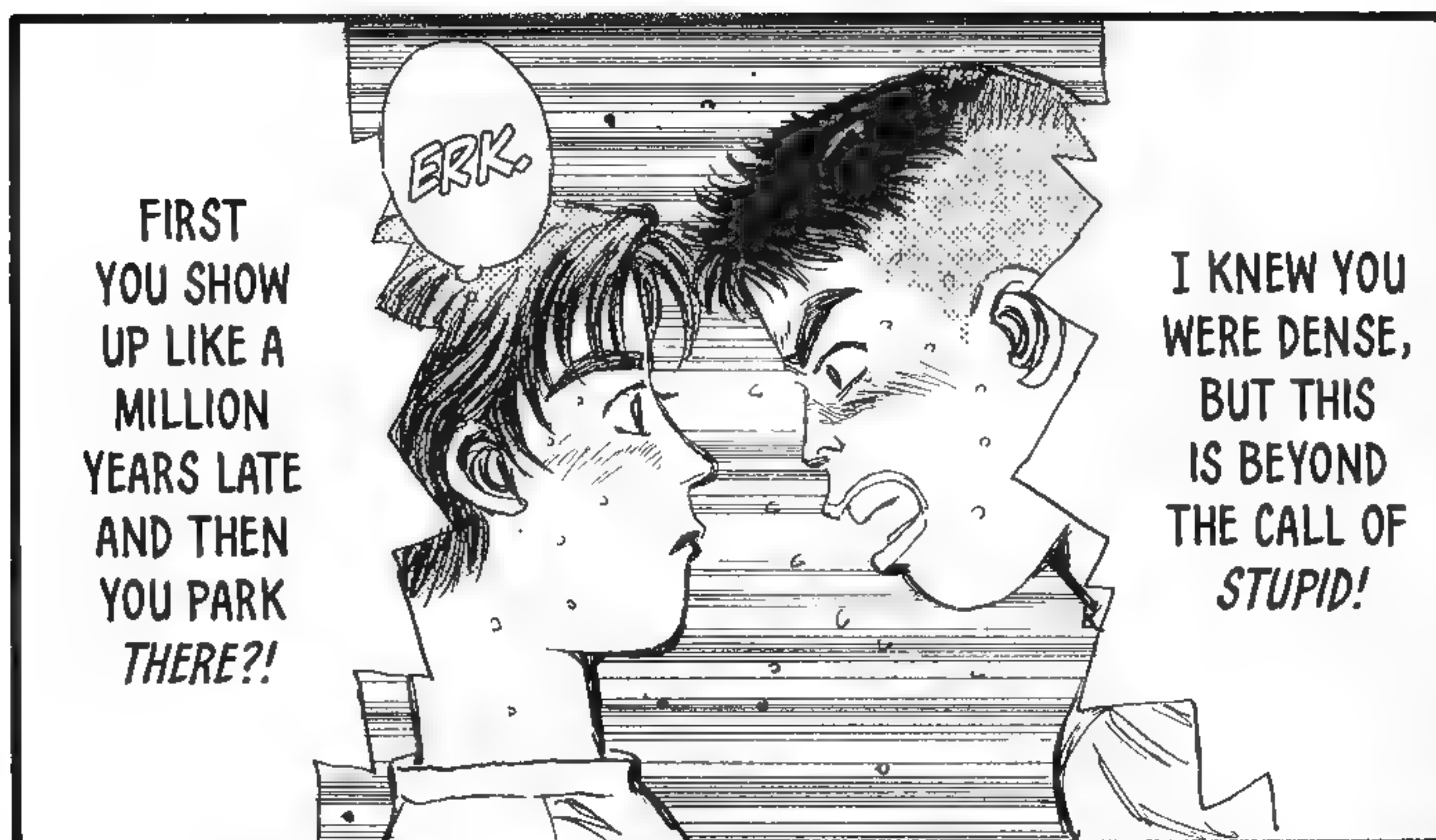
TAKUMI!  
YOU SON OF  
A BITCH!



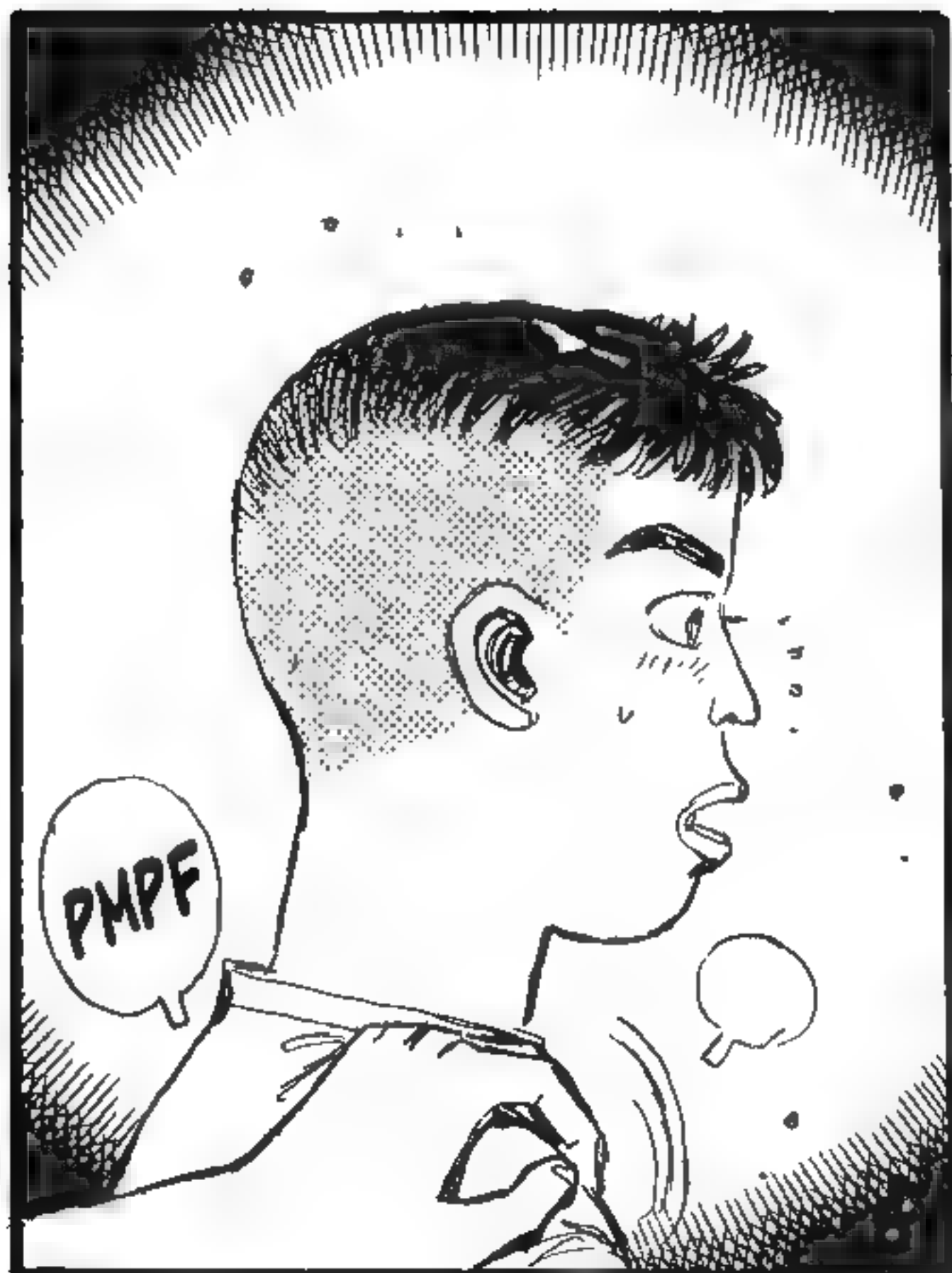
た  
DASH

た  
た



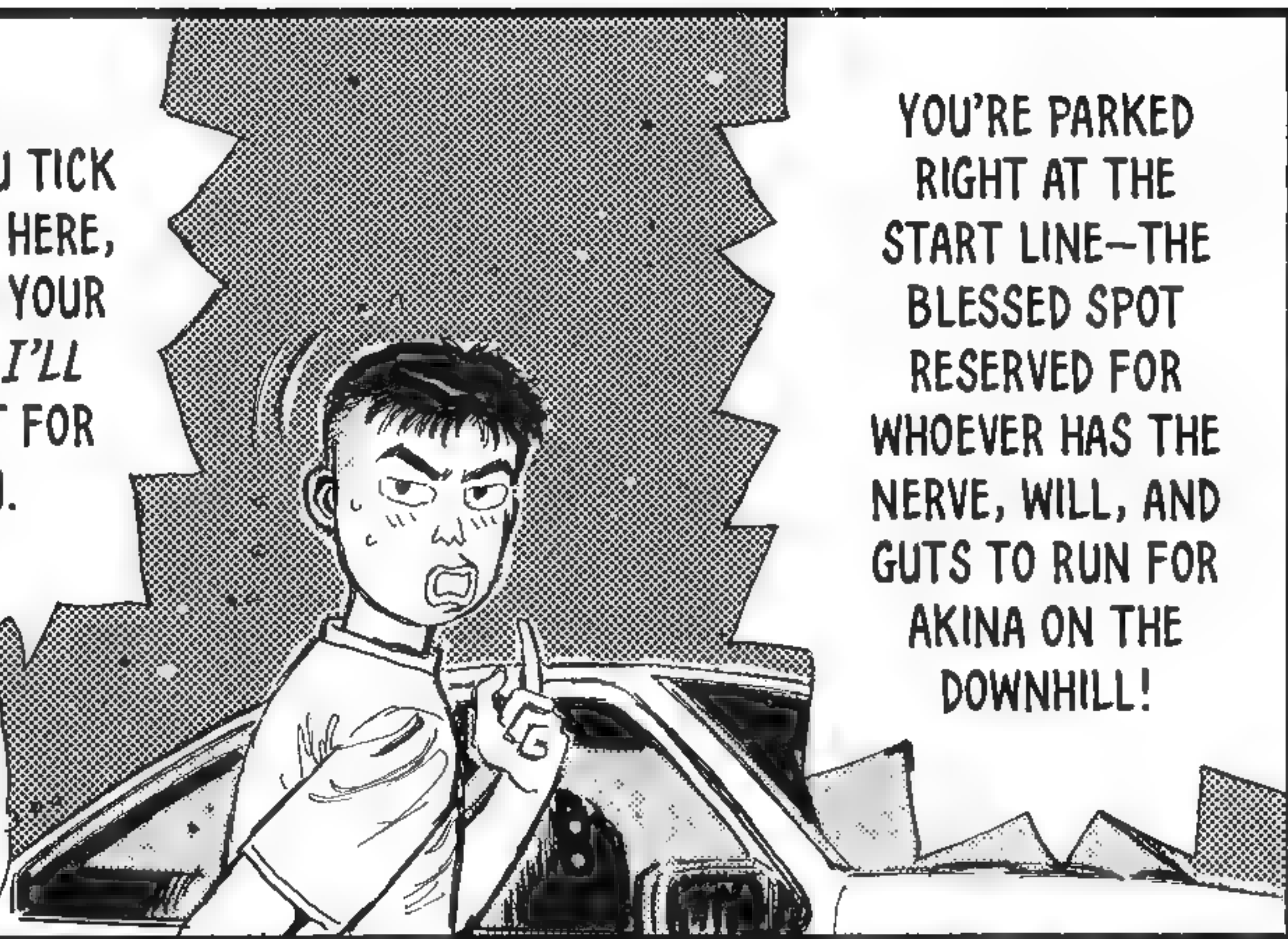






GOD, YOU TICK ME OFF. HERE, GIVE ME YOUR KEYS, I'LL MOVE IT FOR YOU.

AND GET MY CHANCE TO DRIVE MY BELOVED EIGHT-SIX AT THE SAME TIME!



YOU'RE PARKED RIGHT AT THE START LINE—THE BLESSED SPOT RESERVED FOR WHOEVER HAS THE NERVE, WILL, AND GUTS TO RUN FOR AKINA ON THE DOWNHILL!

WHO DOES THE TOFU DELIVERIES AROUND LAKE AKINA? IS IT YOUR DAD... OR IS IT YOU?



TELL ME ONE THING, TAKUMI.



JUST A SECOND, ITSUKI.



I HAVE FOR FIVE YEARS NOW.

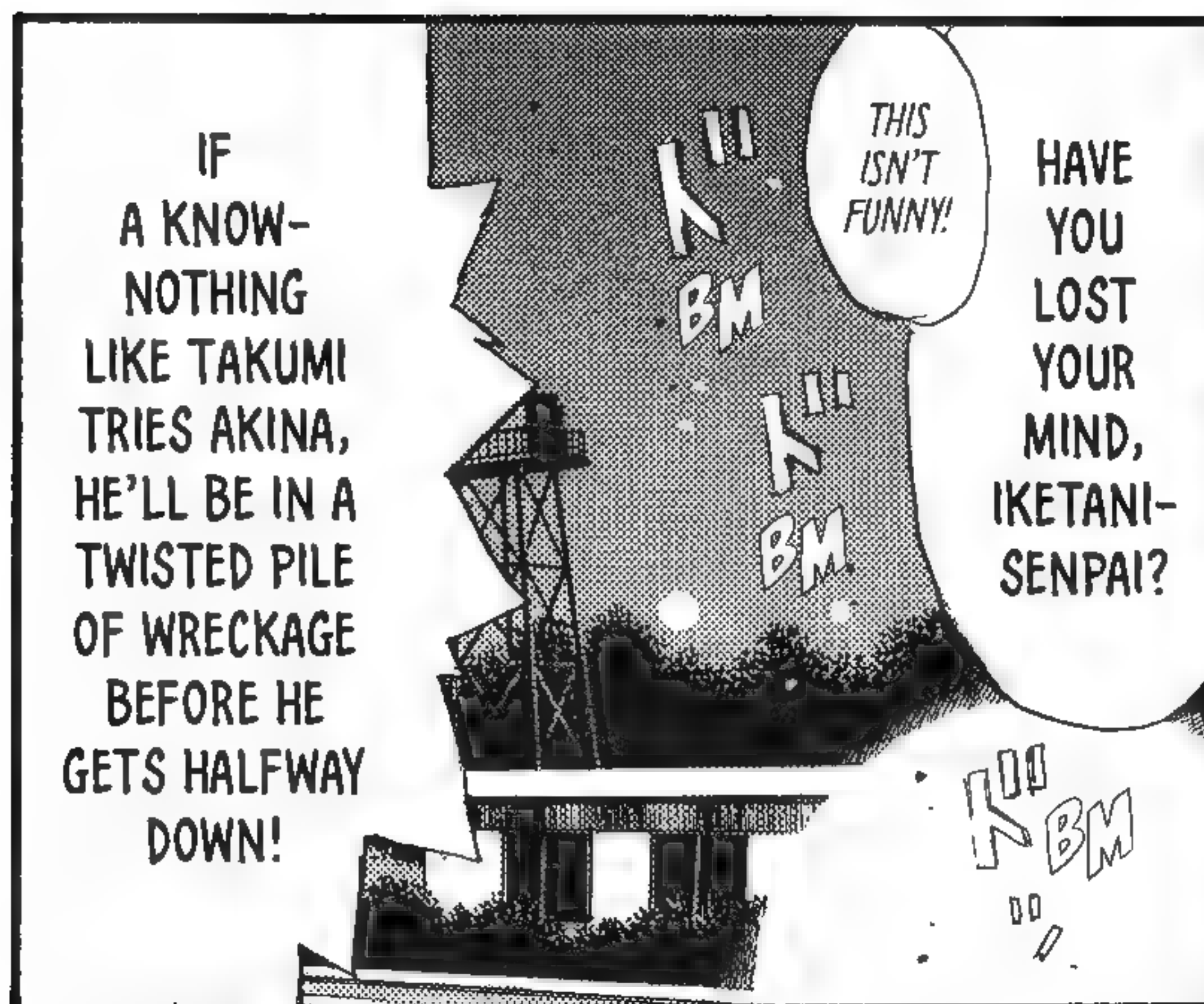
I HANDLE ALL THE DELIVERIES THESE DAYS, IKETANI-SENPAI.



FINALLY. IT ALL MAKES SENSE.



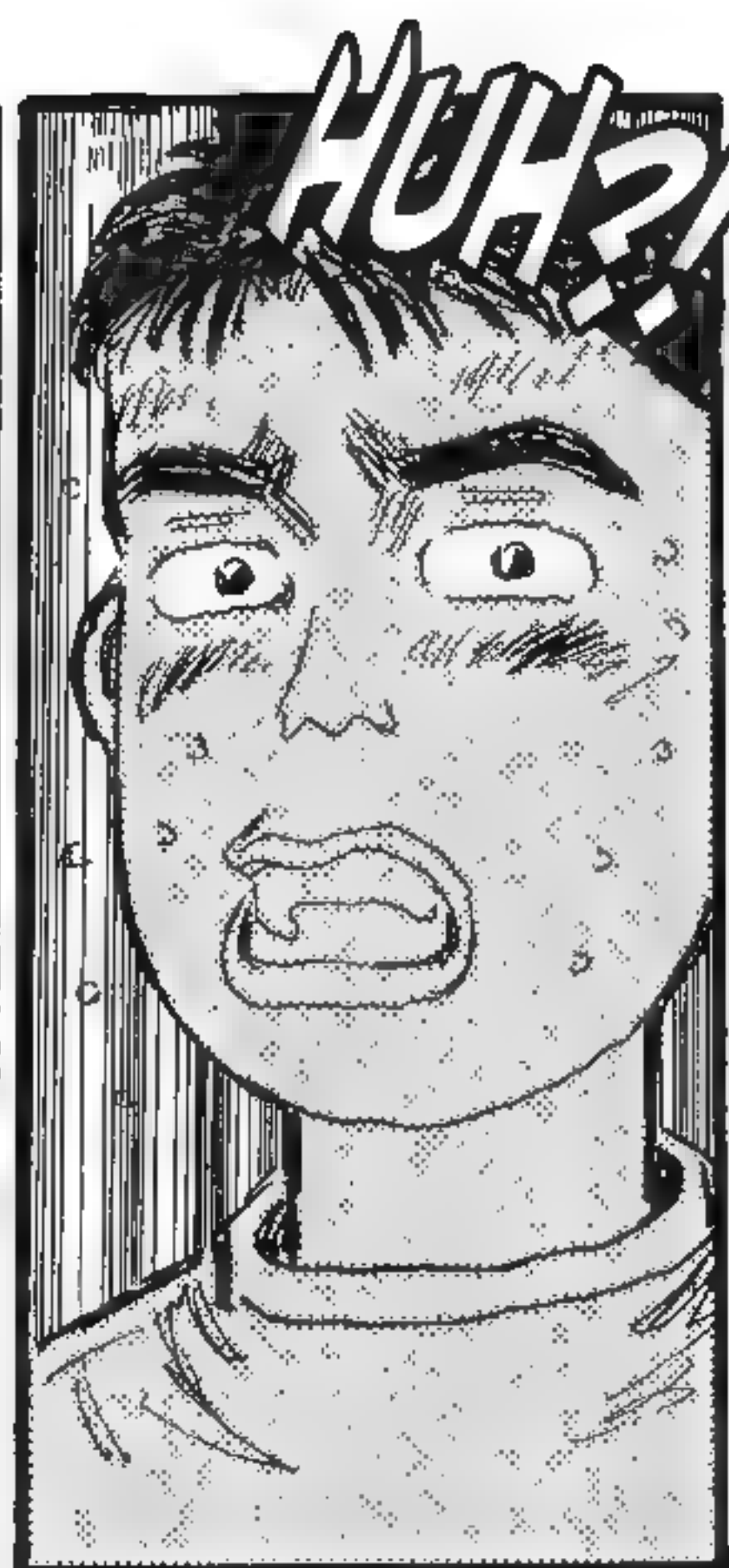




IF  
A KNOW-  
NOTHING  
LIKE TAKUMI  
TRIES AKINA,  
HE'LL BE IN A  
TWISTED PILE  
OF WRECKAGE  
BEFORE HE  
GETS HALFWAY  
DOWN!

THIS  
ISN'T  
FUNNY!

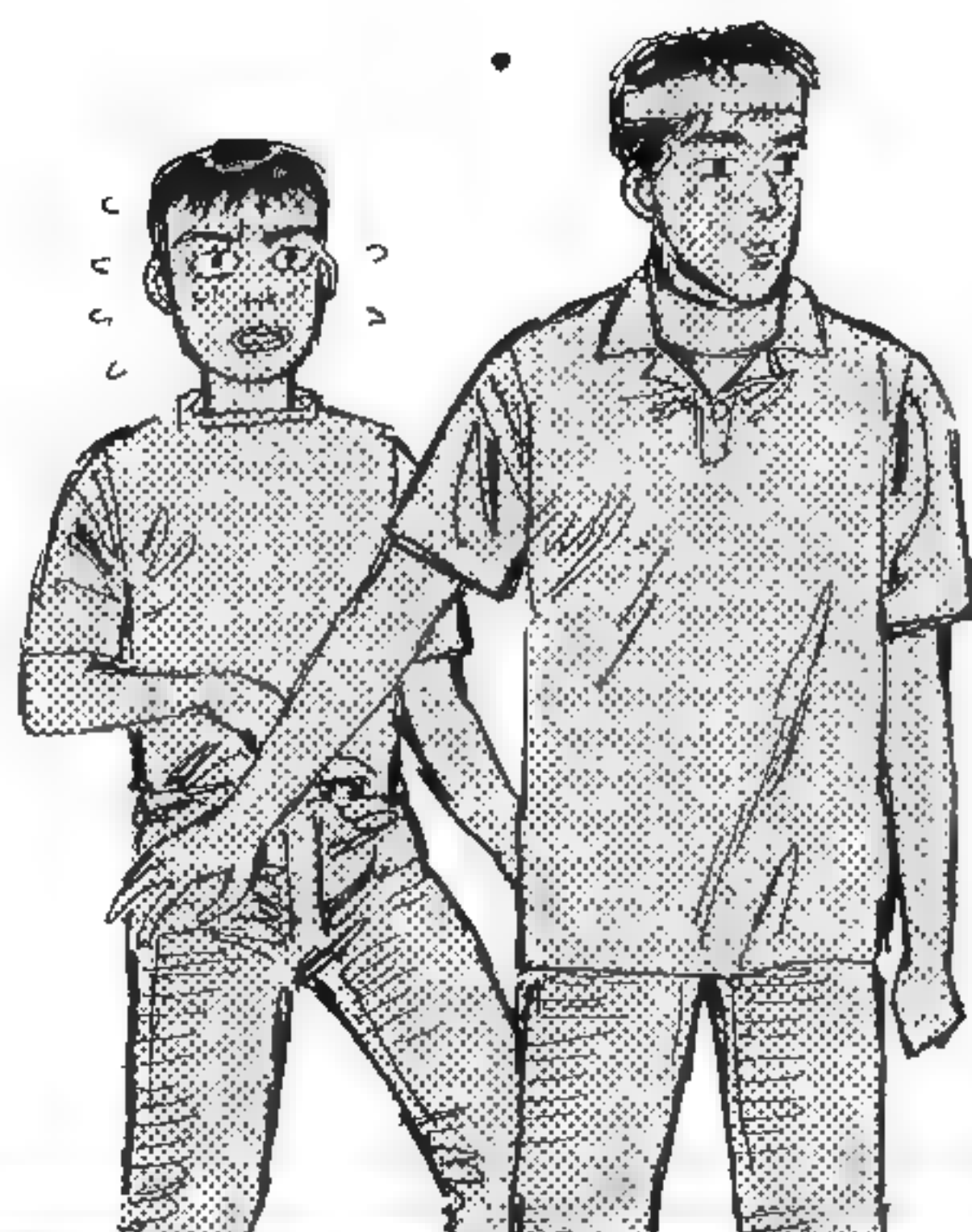
HAVE  
YOU  
LOST  
YOUR  
MIND,  
IKETANI-  
SENPAI?



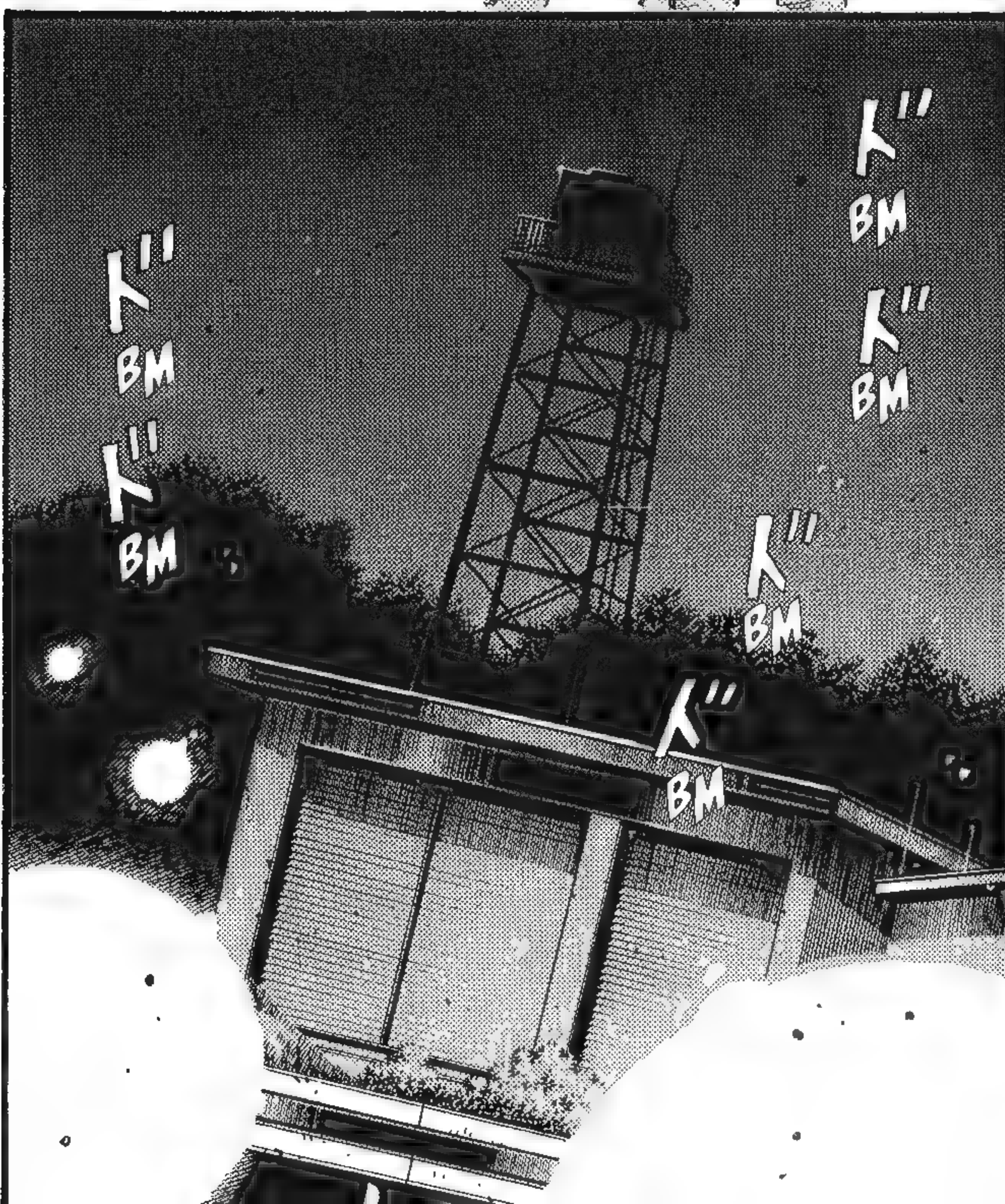
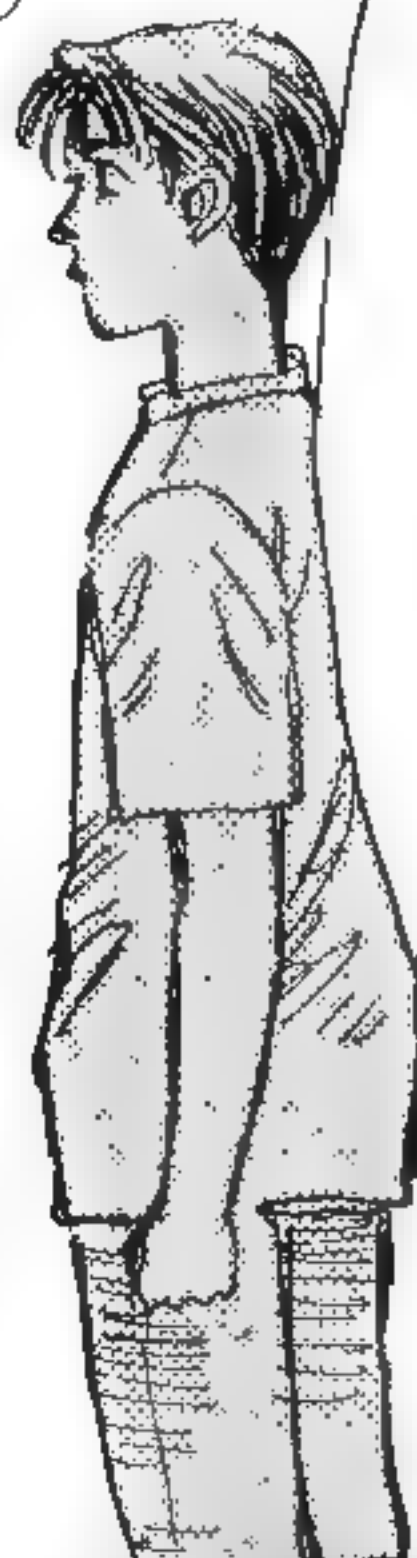
YOU'RE  
IN,  
TAKUMI.  
TEAR  
UP THAT  
DOWN-  
HILL!



TAKUMI  
WON'T BE  
A TWISTED  
PILE OF  
ANYTHING.



SERIOUSLY,  
ITSUKI, COOL  
IT. GO BACK TO  
THE SIDELINES  
AND WATCH.



**NOW  
GET  
TO IT!**

I'M  
GLAD YOU'RE  
HERE, MAN.  
I OWE YOU  
ONE.







YOU  
OUGHTA  
BE  
SORRY.  
HUH!

WE CAN  
START  
NOW.

SORRY TO  
KEEP YOU  
WAITING.



YOU GOT  
A NAME?

DIDN'T  
EXPECT  
SUCH  
A BABY  
FACE.



AND YOU  
REMEMBER  
ME—KEISUKE  
TAKAHASHI!

I'M  
GONNA  
REMEMBER  
THAT.



TAKUMI  
FUJIWARA.



NINE!

OKAY, TEN  
SECONDS!

YEAH, BUT  
AGAINST  
AN FD3S?  
IT DOESN'T  
HAVE  
A CHANCE!  
WHAT  
ARE THEY  
THINKING?



FINALLY! SO  
THAT EIGHT-  
SIX REALLY  
IS GOING TO  
RACE FOR  
AKINA.





**4A-GEU (custom)**

*Total unknown*

*(Why write anything, then?)*

**RE 13BT (custom)**

*Sport muffler  
Electronic boost  
controller  
Sequential adapter  
Sport ECU  
Boost setting:  
1 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>*

*Max output:  
350 PS (estimated)*



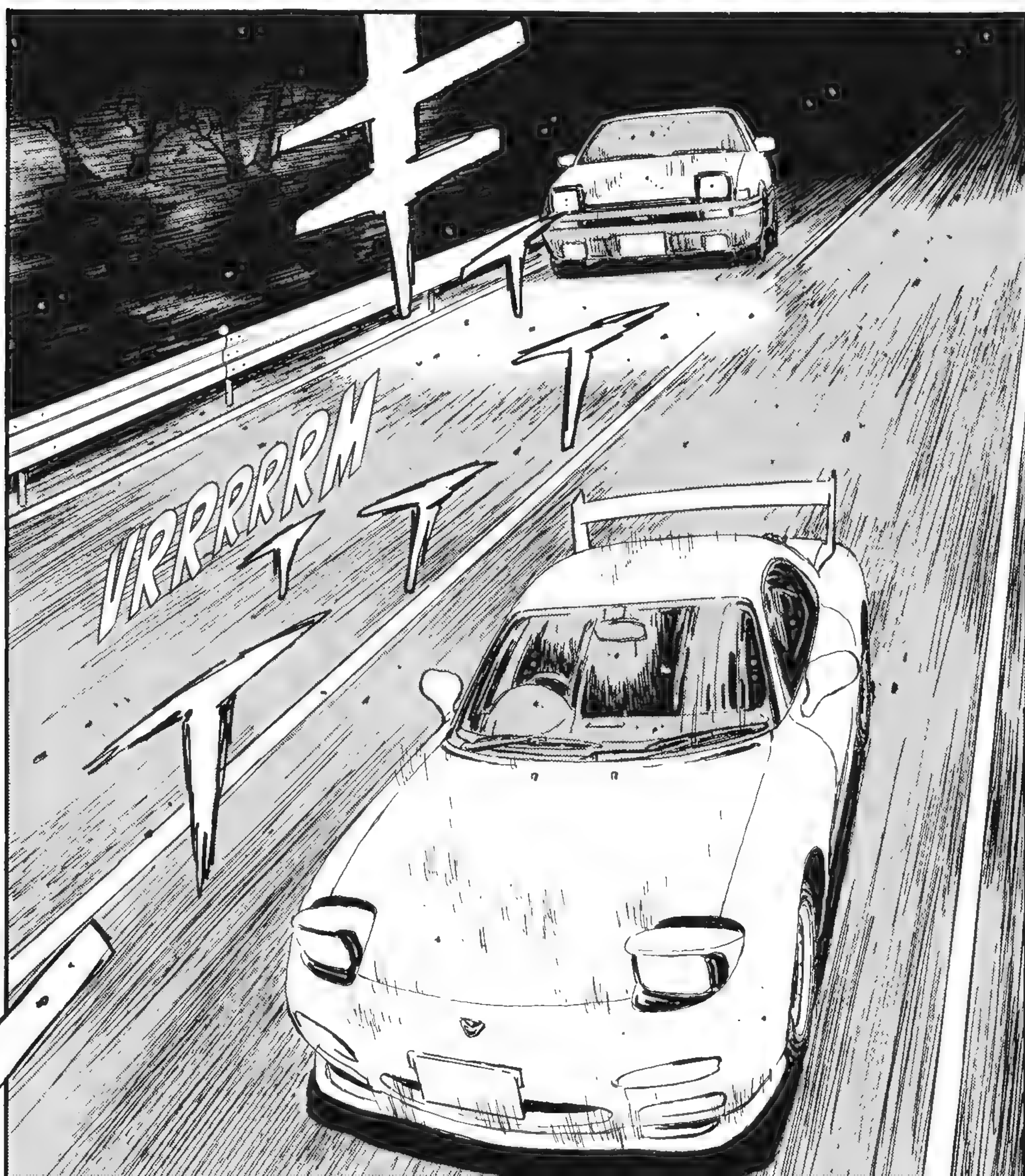






FINALLY!  
A REAL,  
PEDAL-  
TO-THE-  
METAL  
RACE!

THEY'RE  
OFF!

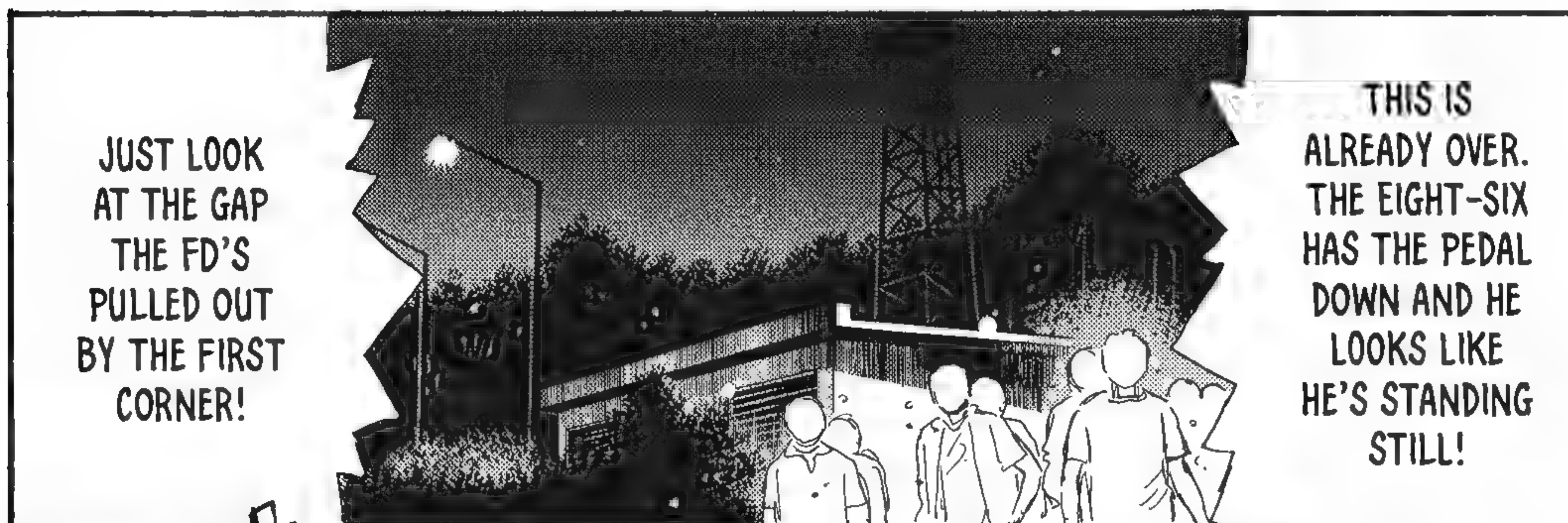






DID  
YOU HEAR  
HOW HE CAME  
OUT OF THE  
CLUTCH? IT  
WAS DAMN  
NEAR  
PERFECT!

SHIT, HE'S  
FAST! THEY  
WEREN'T  
KIDDING ABOUT  
THAT 350 PS\*  
IN KEISUKE'S  
FD!



JUST LOOK  
AT THE GAP  
THE FD'S  
PULLED OUT  
BY THE FIRST  
CORNER!

THIS IS  
ALREADY OVER.  
THE EIGHT-SIX  
HAS THE PEDAL  
DOWN AND HE  
LOOKS LIKE  
HE'S STANDING  
STILL!



THAT GAP'S  
ONLY GONNA  
GROW WHEN  
THEY GET  
INTO THE  
TWISTS!

THE FD IS  
LEGENDARY—  
IT'S JAPAN'S  
GREATEST  
CORNERING  
MACHINE!

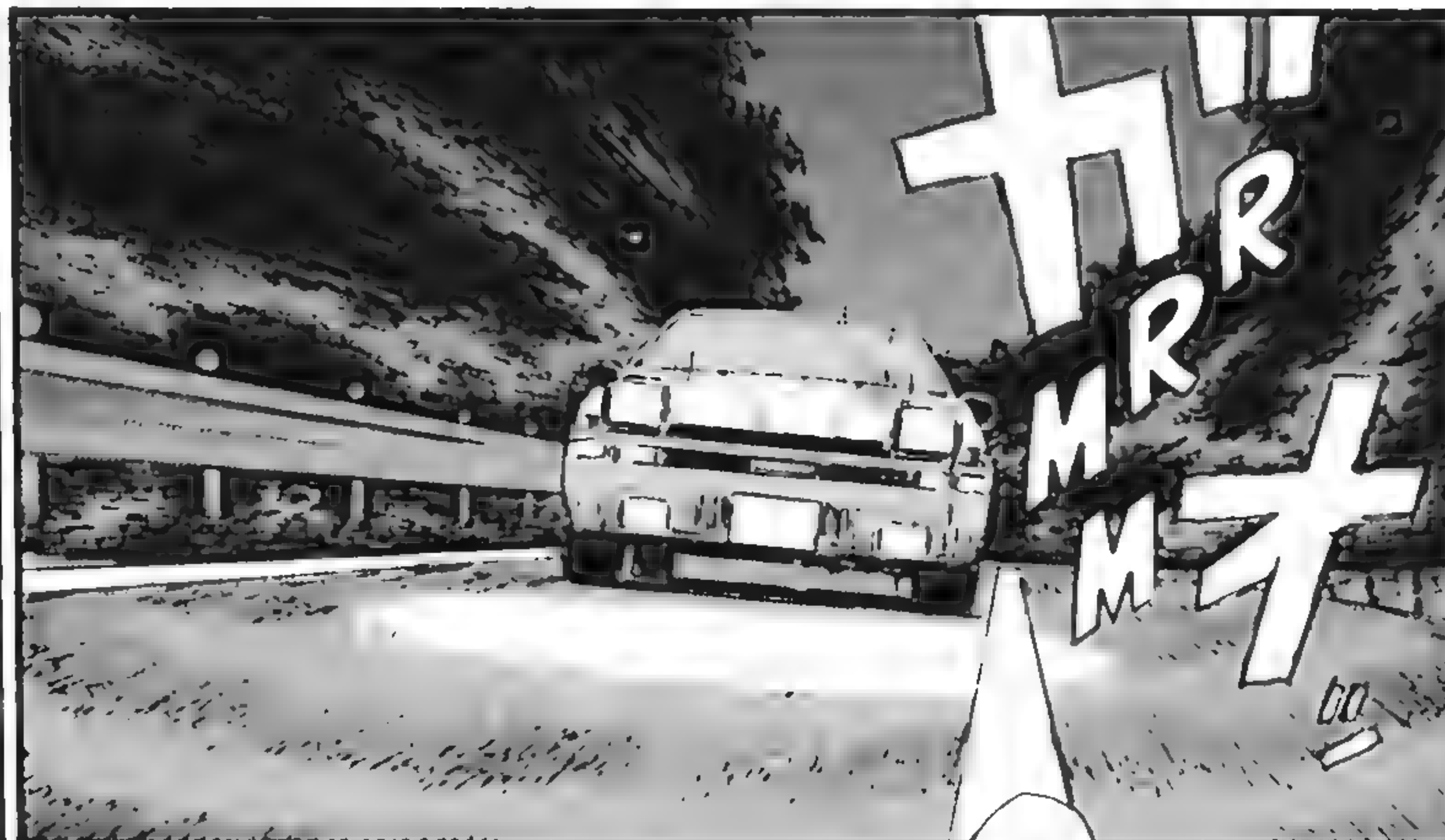
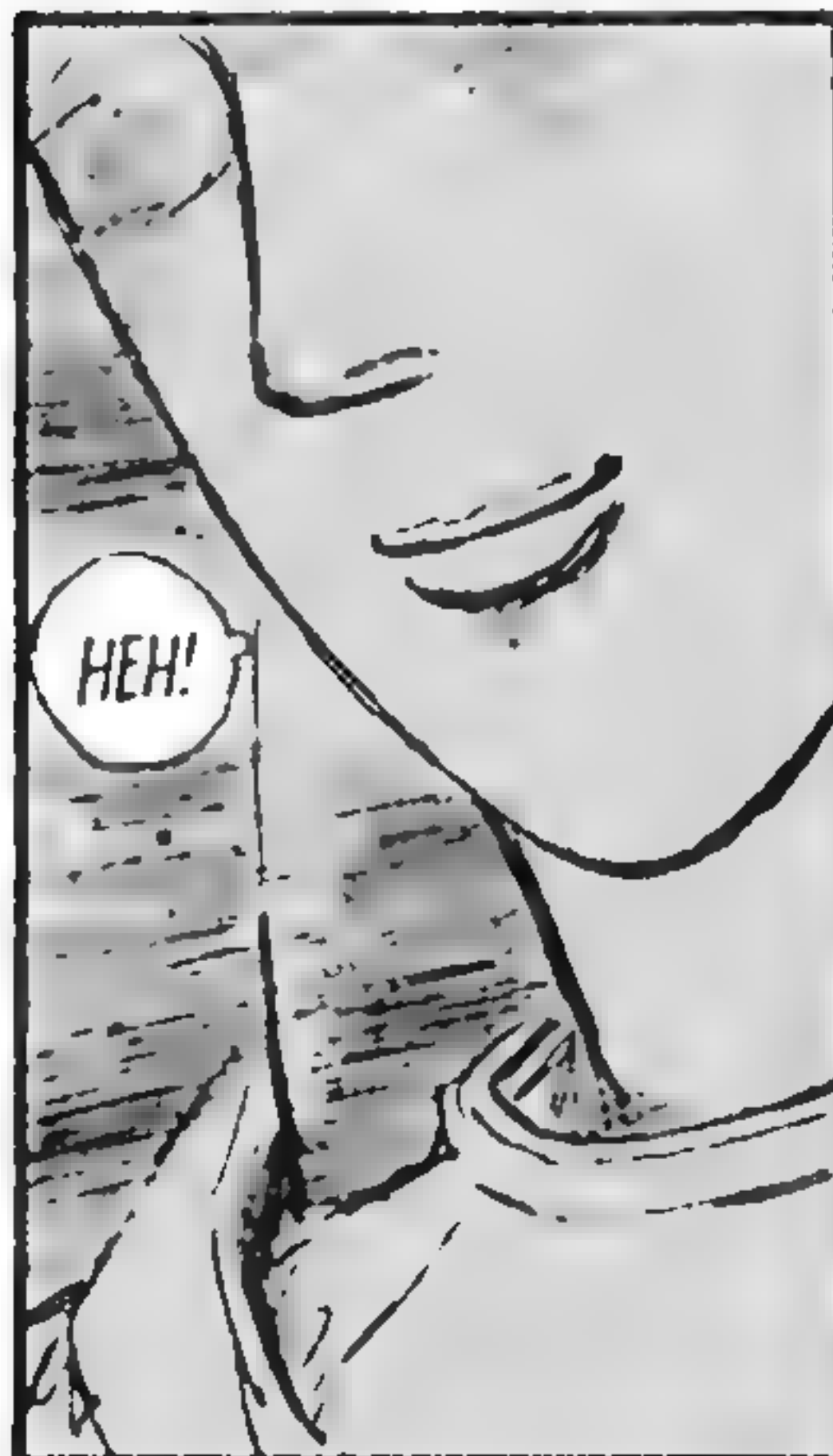




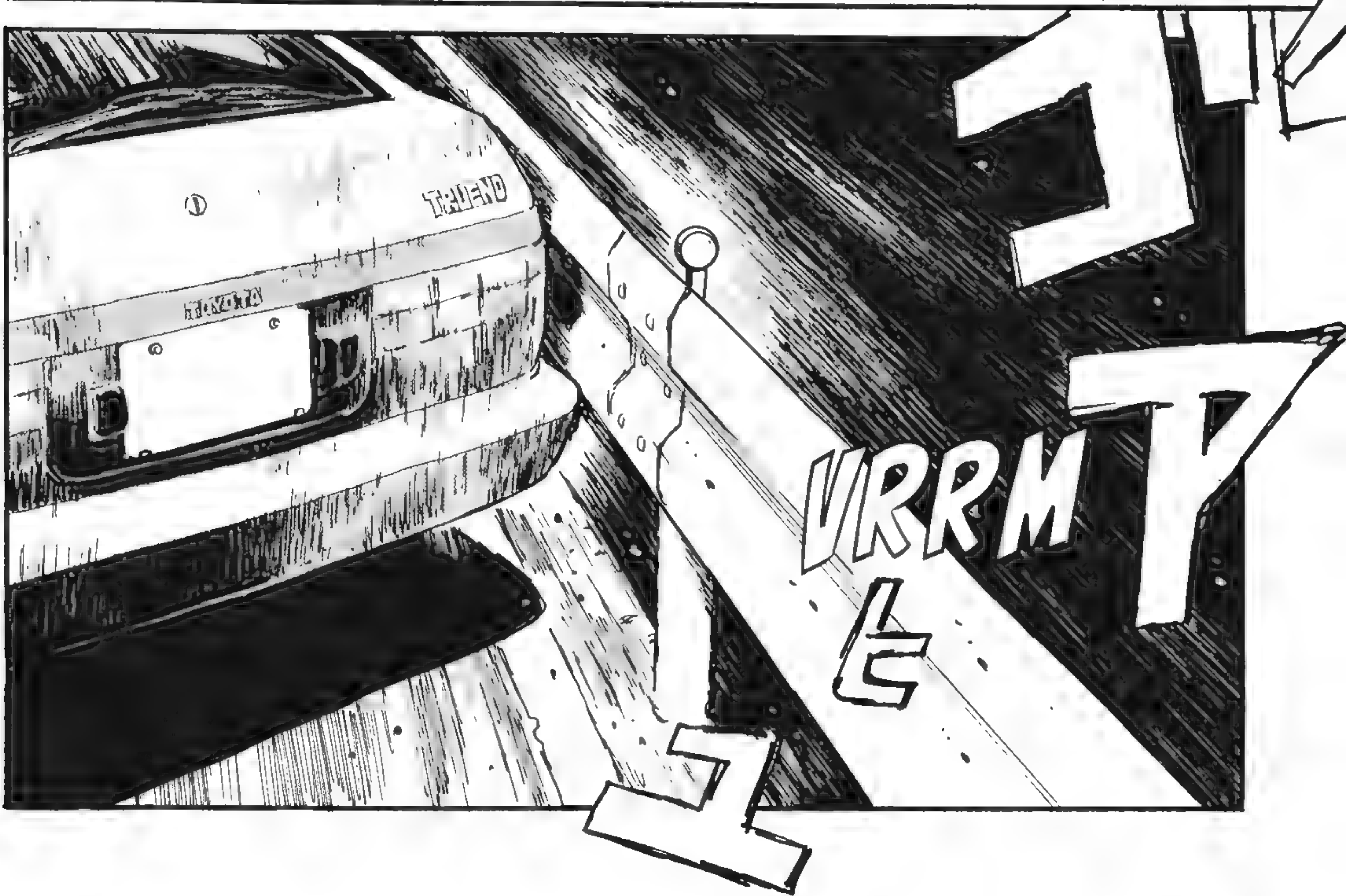
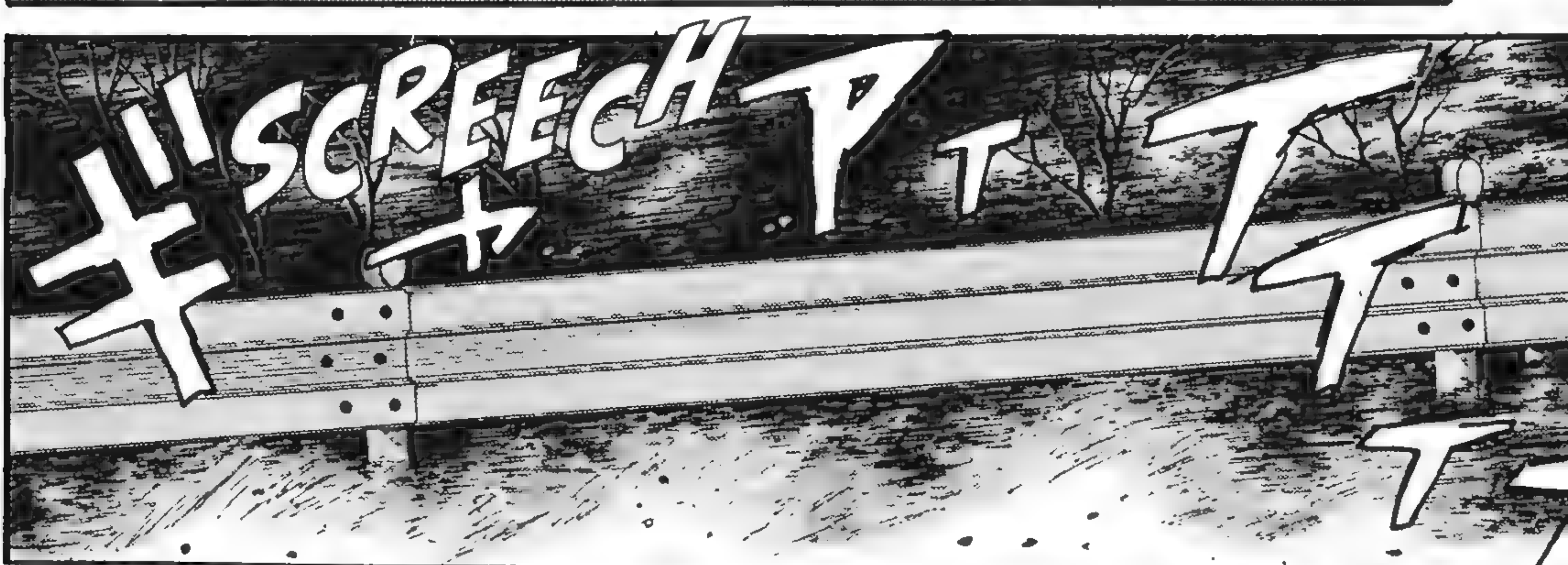
I'M GONNA  
PUT YOU SO  
FAR BACK YOU  
WON'T EVEN  
SHOW UP IN  
MY REARVIEW  
MIRROR!



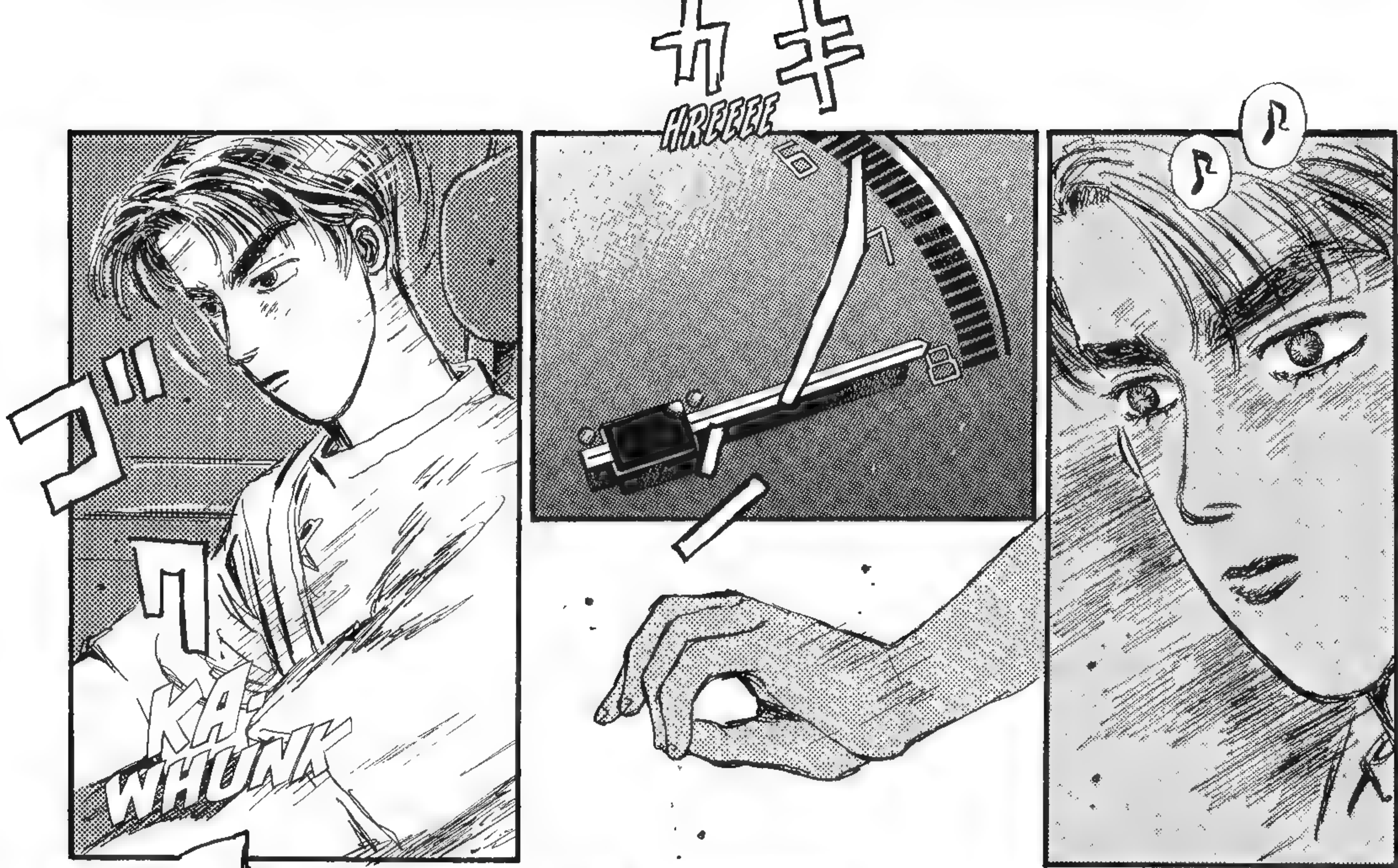
I DIDN'T  
ACTUALLY WANT  
TO DUST YOU  
ON THE FIRST  
STRAIGHT, BUT  
THIS IS A TIME  
ATTACK.



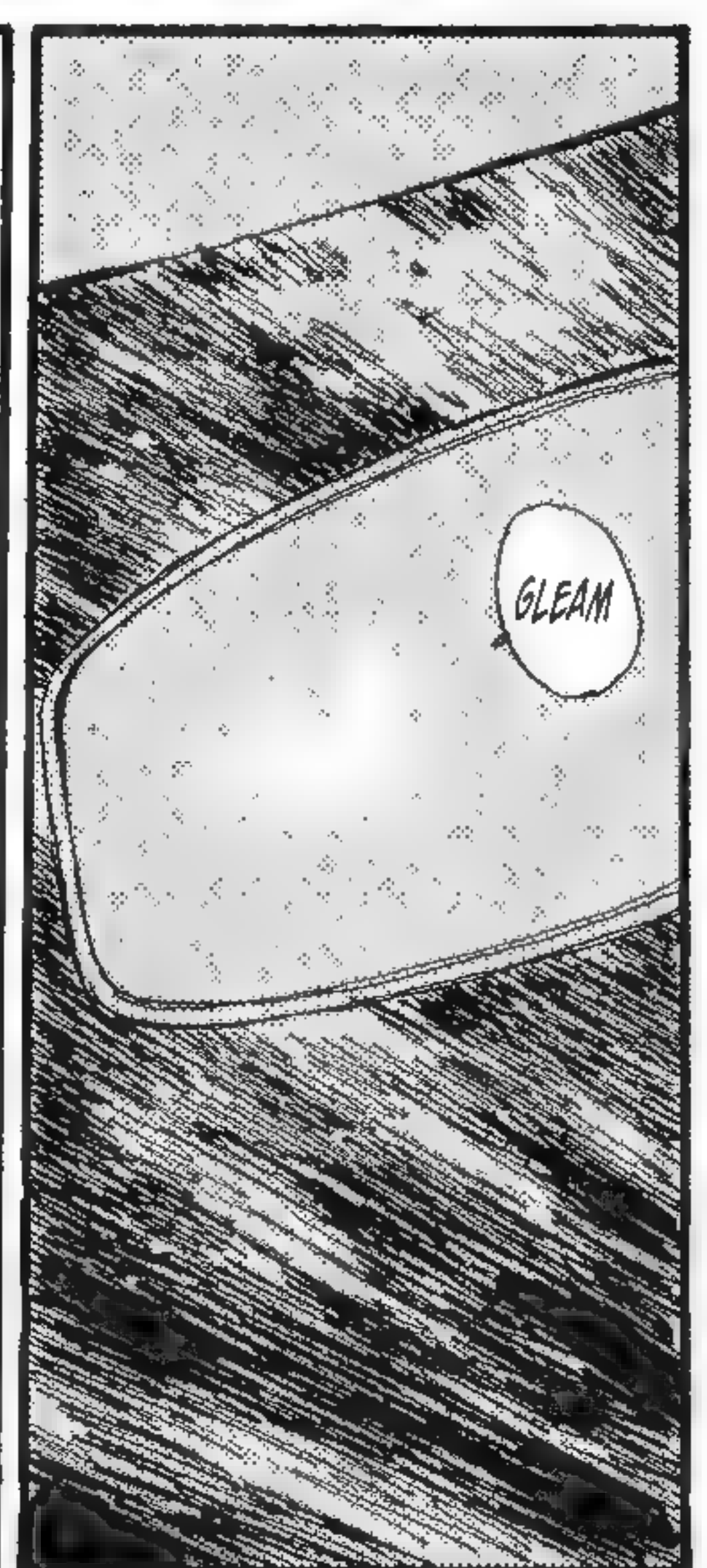
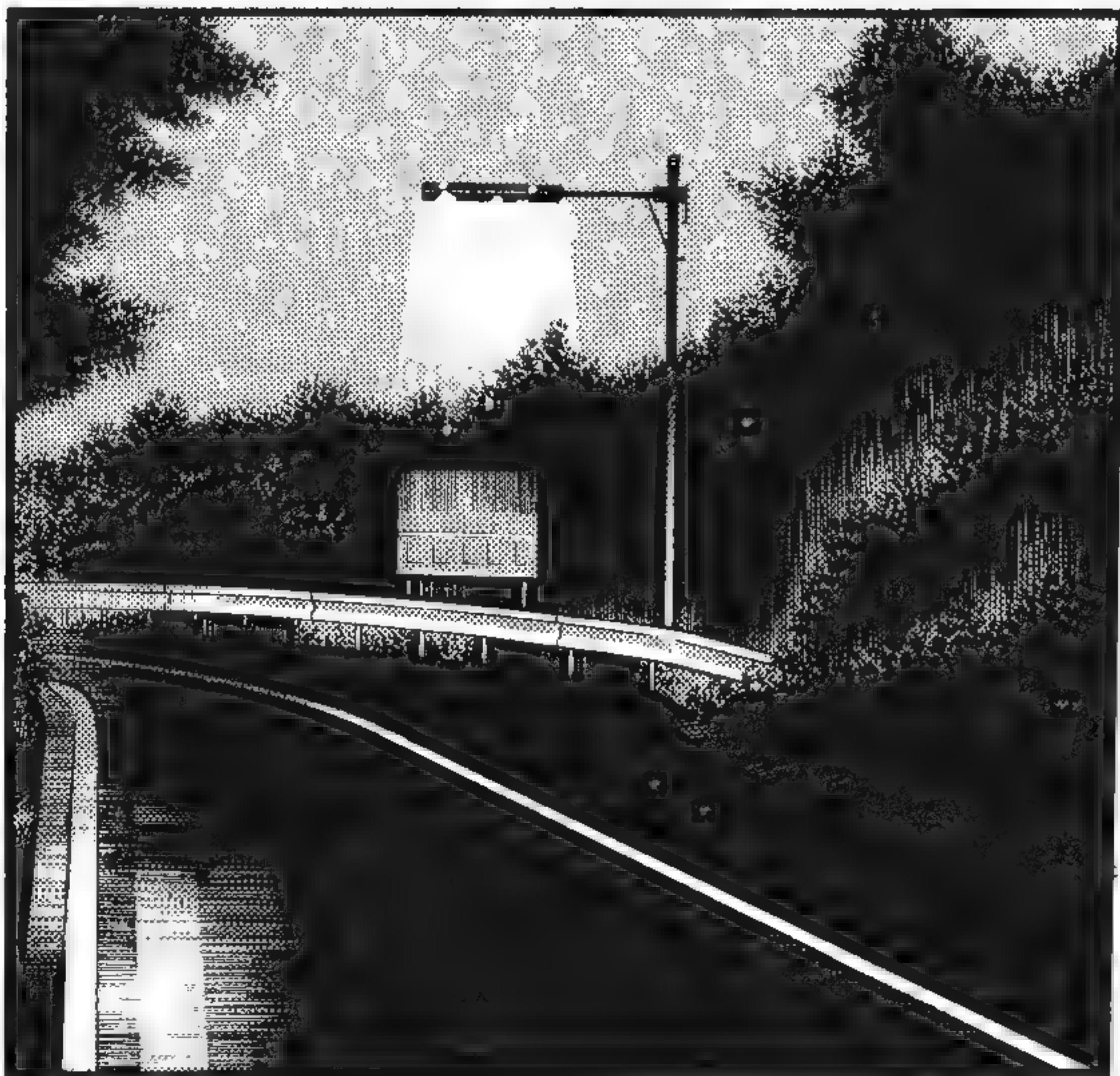




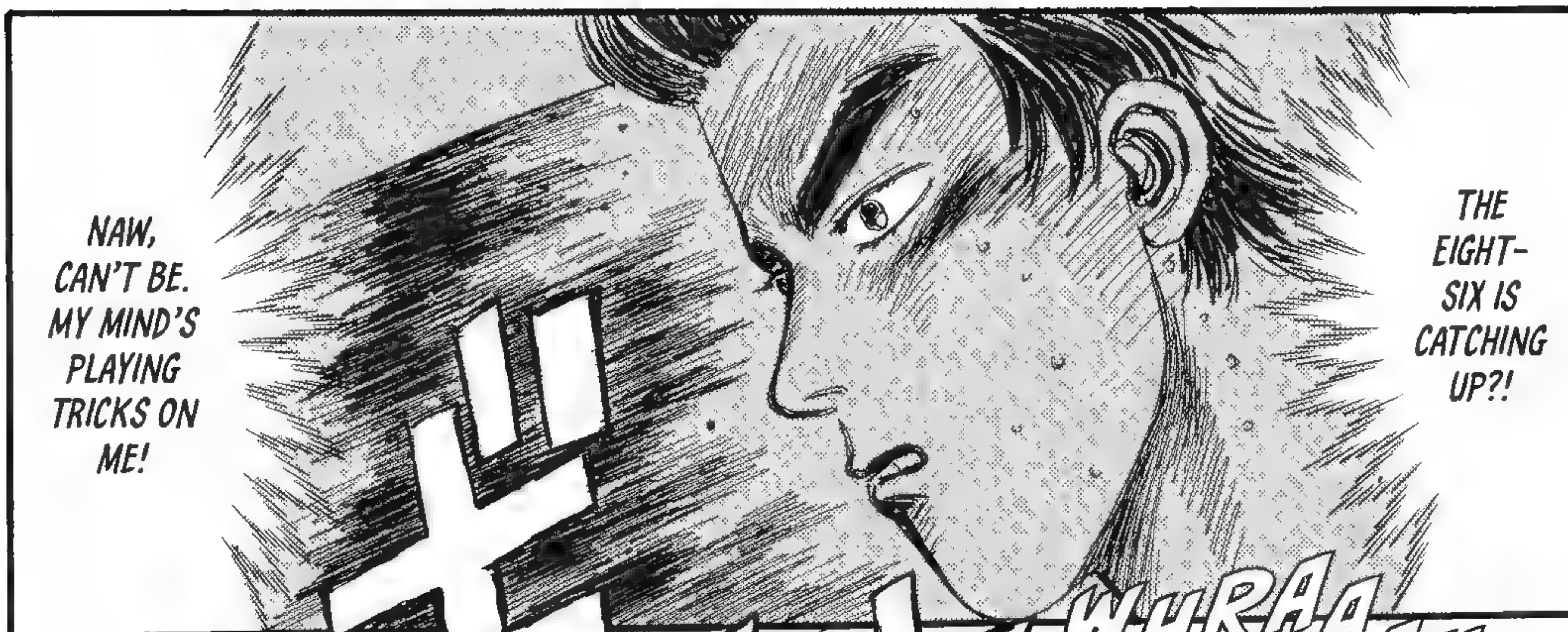






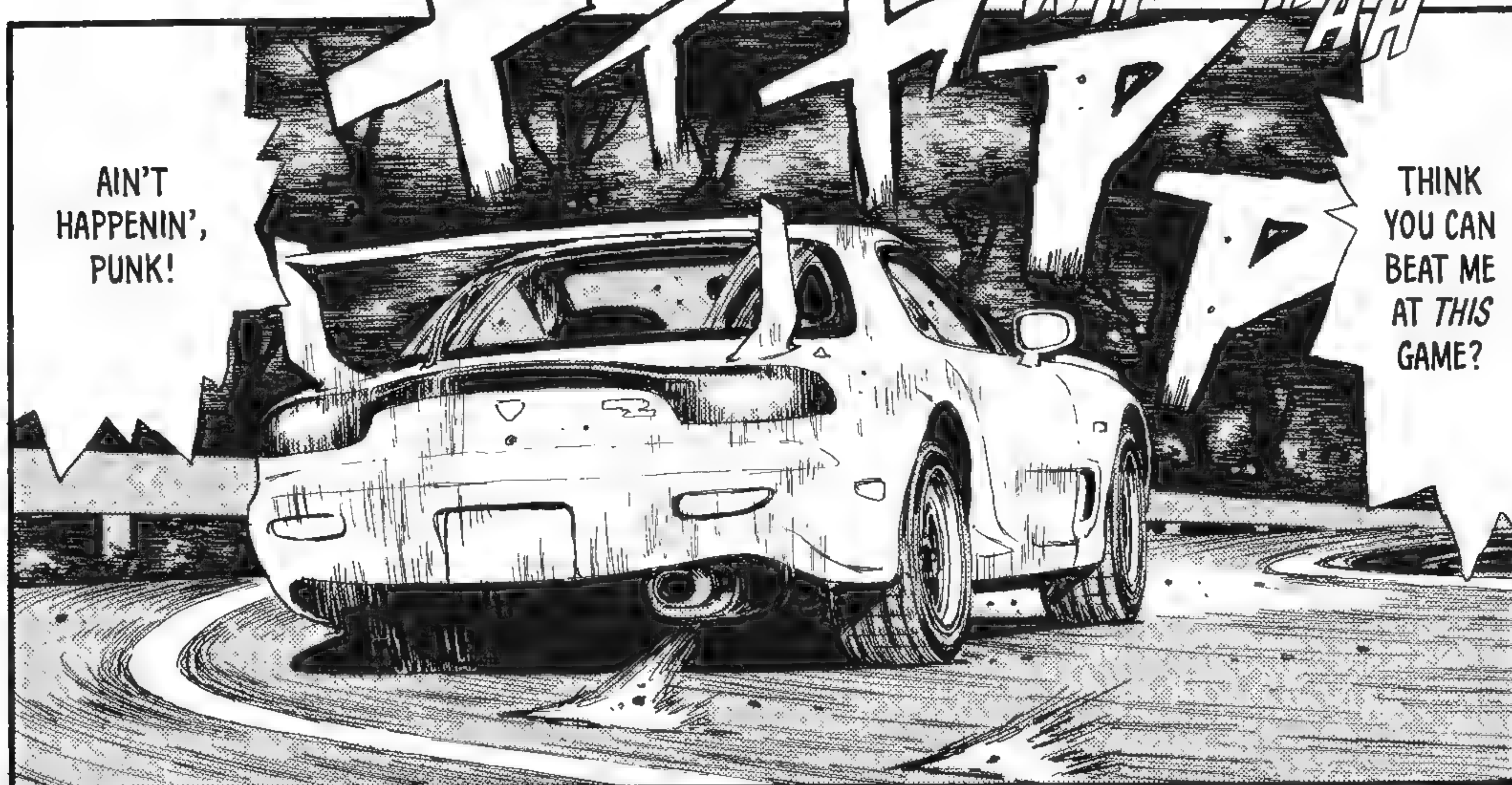






NAW,  
CAN'T BE.  
MY MIND'S  
PLAYING  
TRICKS ON  
ME!

THE  
EIGHT-  
SIX IS  
CATCHING  
UP?!



AIN'T  
HAPPENIN',  
PUNK!

THINK  
YOU CAN  
BEAT ME  
AT THIS  
GAME?



SCREEECH



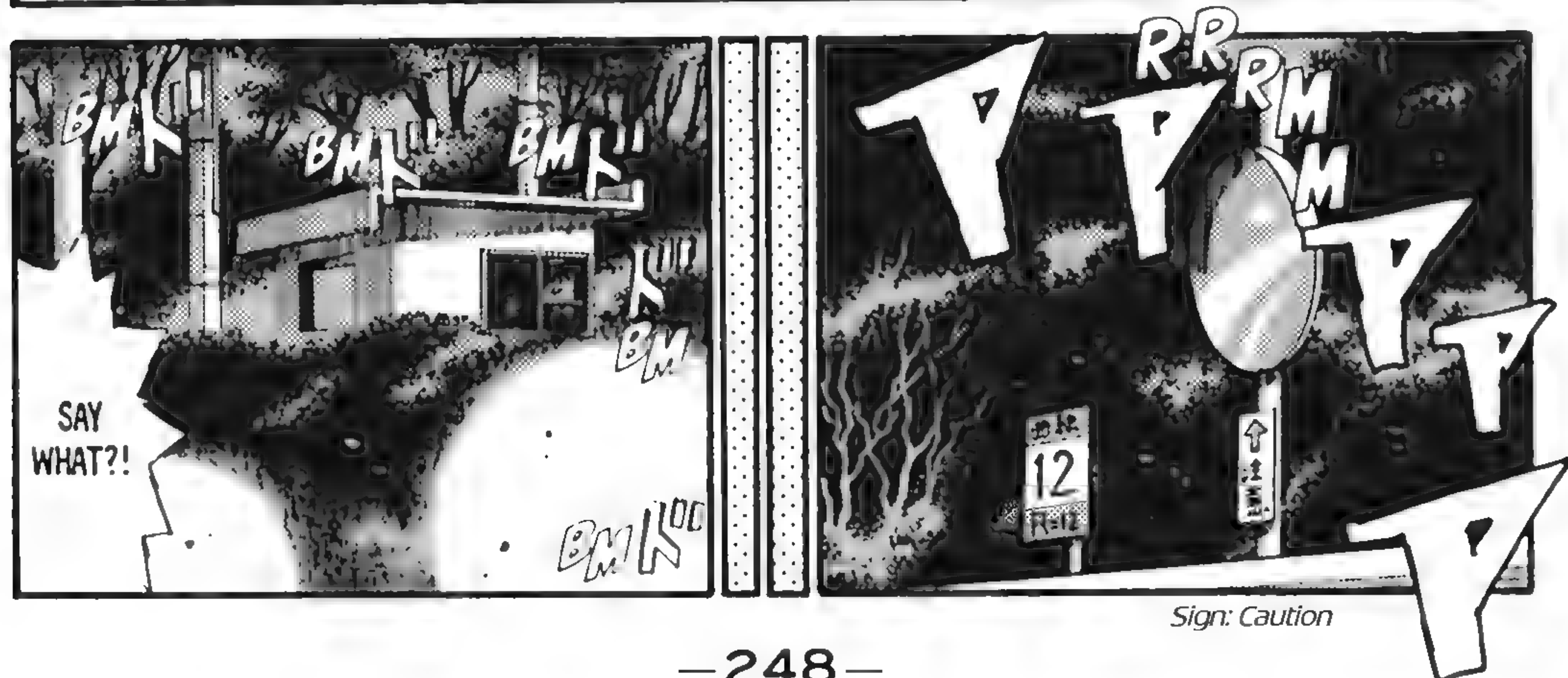
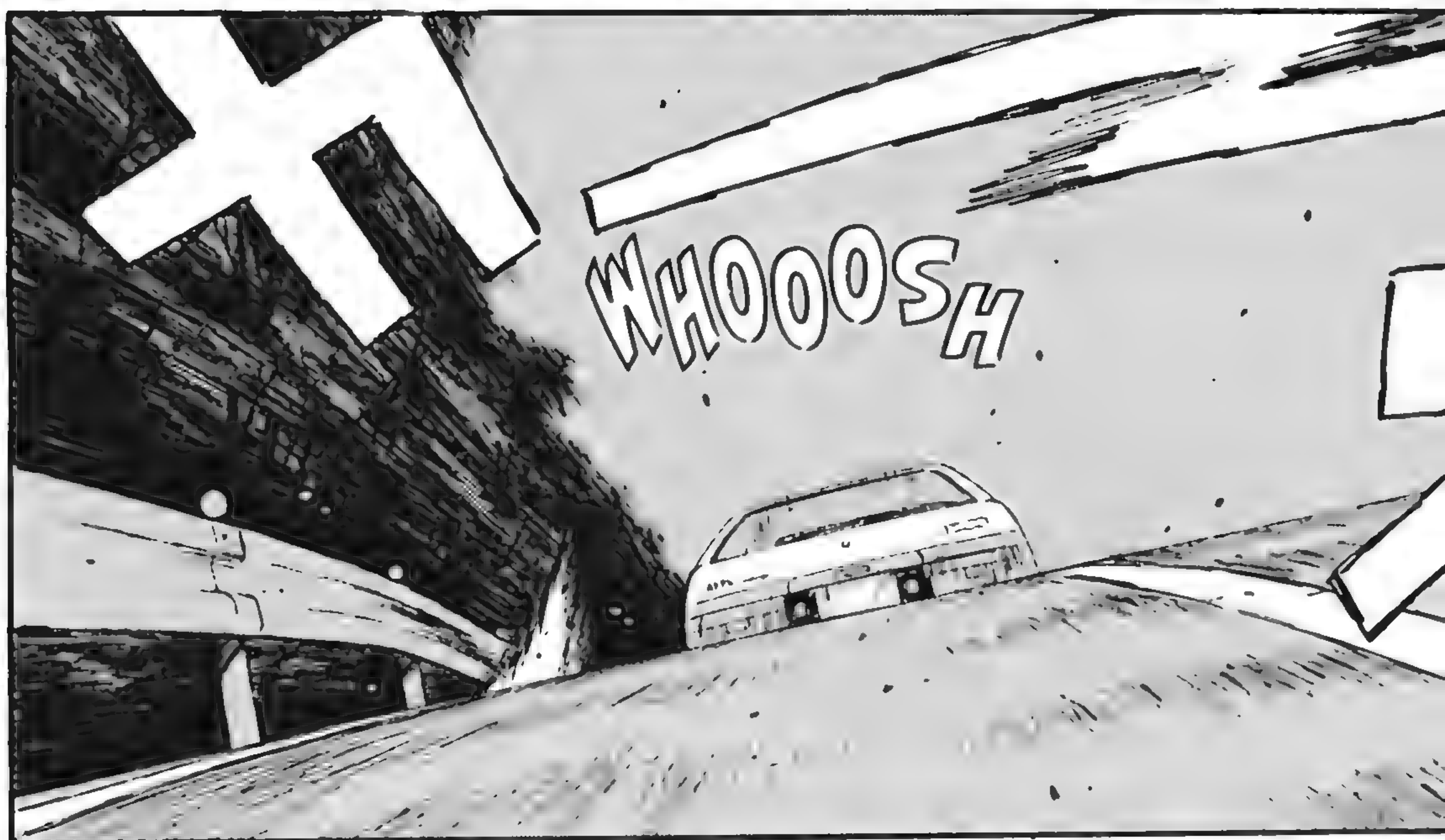
ZHOOM



Ch. 12: Dogfight



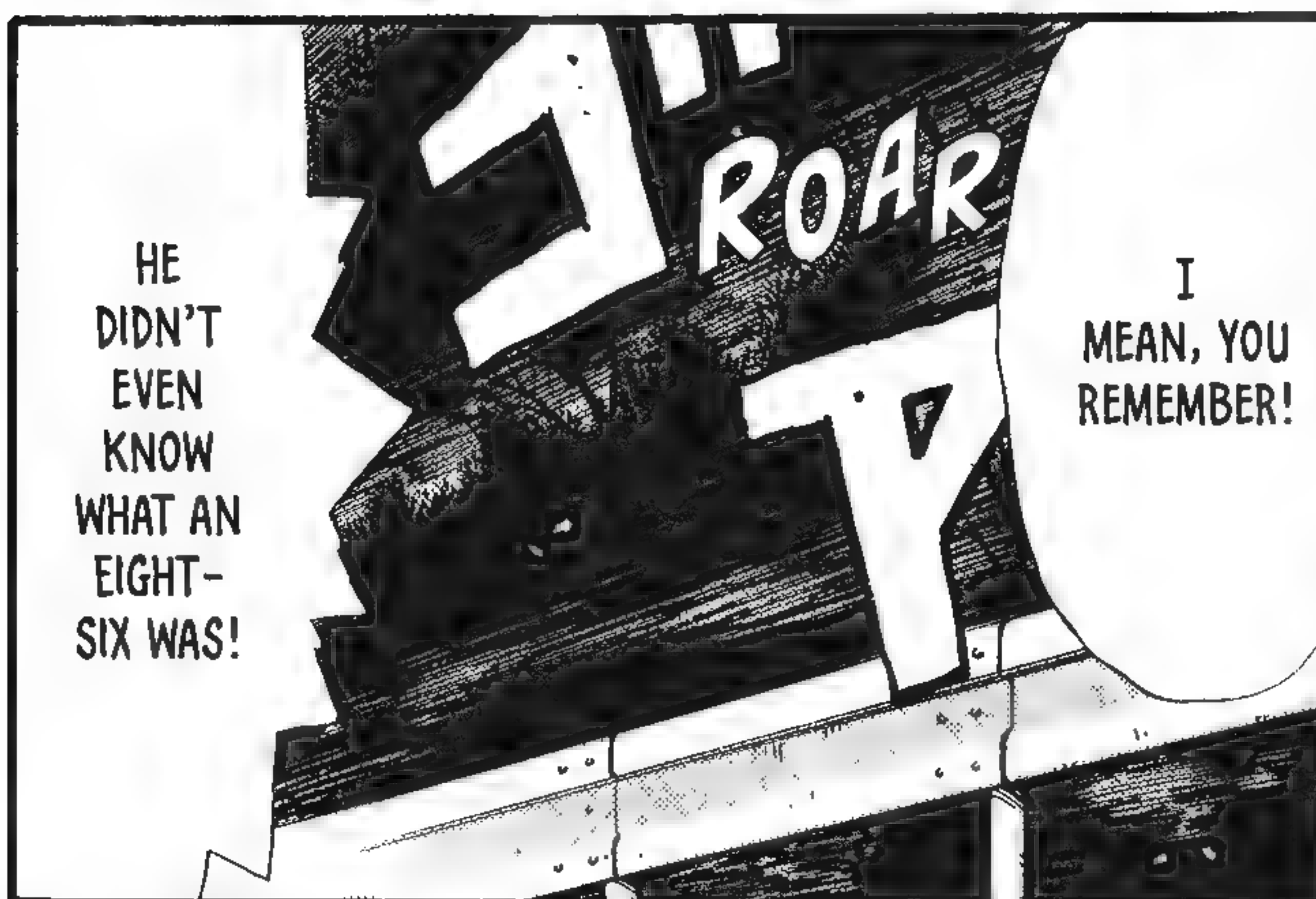
















I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW HE SURVIVES AT THAT SPEED, LET ALONE DRIVES AT IT!

HE COMES TEARING THROUGH HERE, TAIL OUT, ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE CORNER...

WHERE'D THIS GUY COME FROM? IS HE FROM AKINA?!

I JUST ABOUT CRAPPED MYSELF WATCHING HIM! HE LOOKS LIKE HE COULD GO FLYING OFF AT ANY SECOND!

WHO A!

HOOWEE!

GET A LOAD OF THAT EIGHT-SIX!





Atop the mountain,  
at the start line

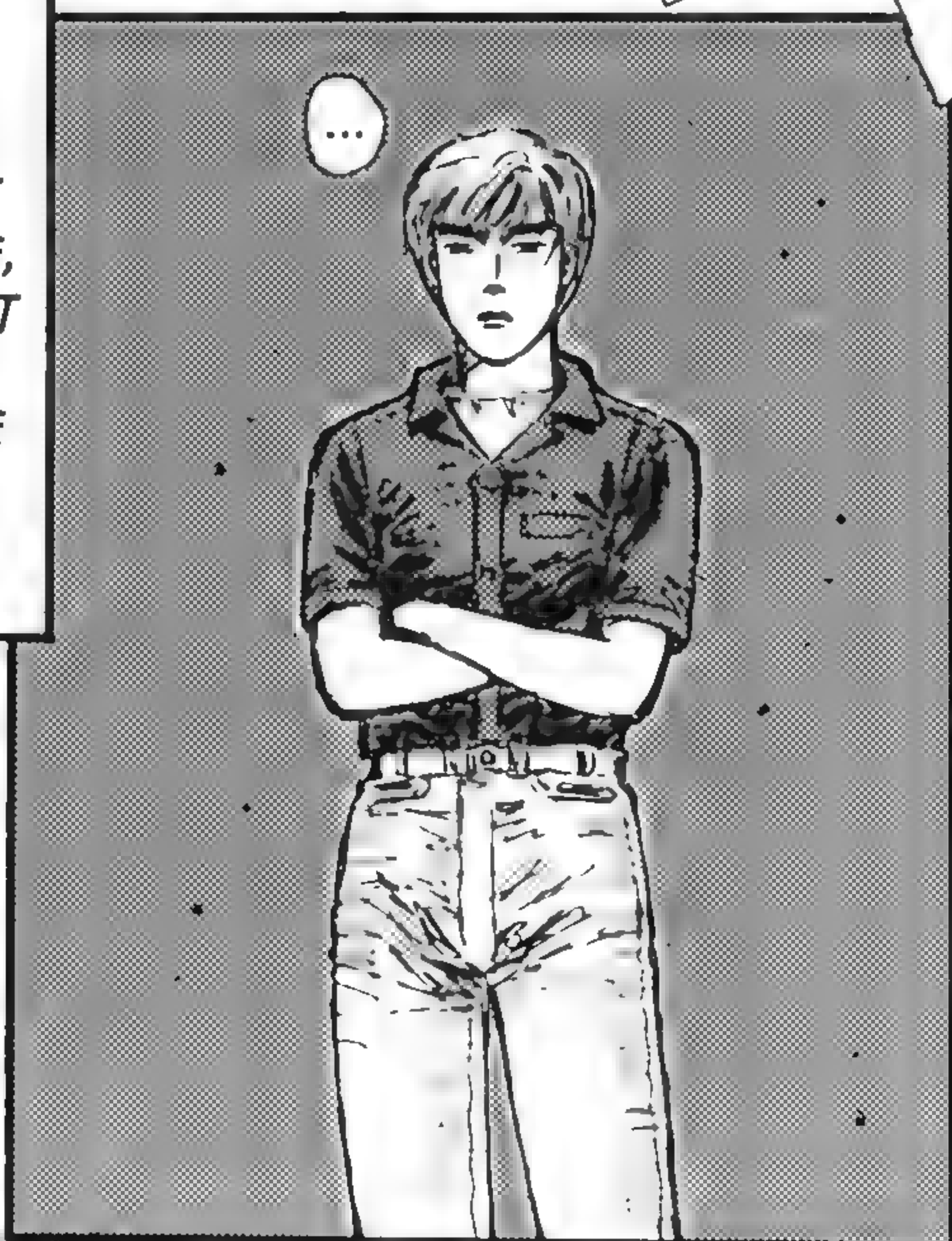


AND WHO  
THE HELL IS  
HE?!

HARDLY THE  
MONSTER  
KEISUKE WAS  
DESCRIBING.



JUDGING BY  
HOW HE GOT  
OFF THE LINE,  
I DOUBT THAT  
EIGHT-SIX  
MAKES MORE  
THAN 150 PS.

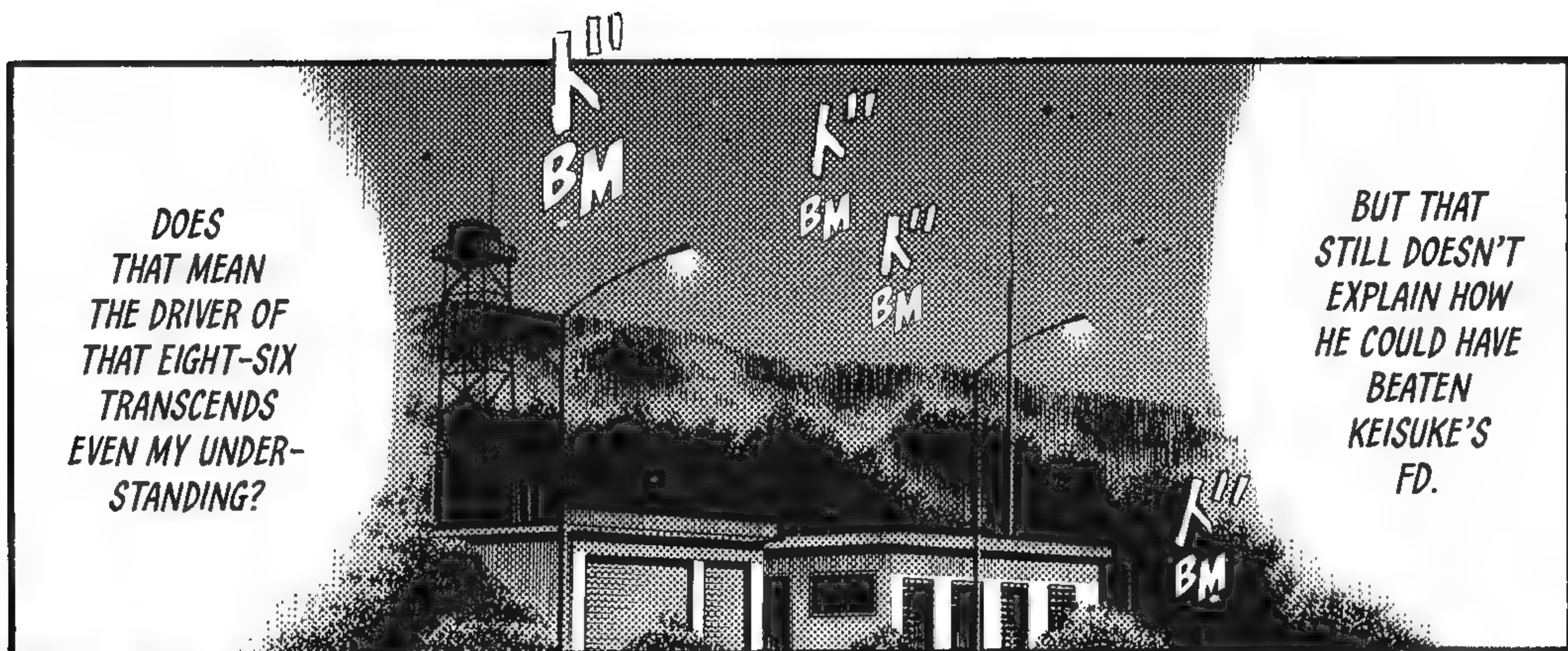


HIS SECOND GEAR IS  
PROBABLY PERFECT  
FOR AKINA'S TIGHT  
HAIRPINS.



HE'S RUNNING  
A RALLY-STYLE  
CLOSE-RATIO  
TRANSMISSION  
THAT GIVES HIM  
THOSE EARLY  
SHIFT POINTS.





DOES  
THAT MEAN  
THE DRIVER OF  
THAT EIGHT-SIX  
TRANSCENDS  
EVEN MY UNDER-  
STANDING?

BUT THAT  
STILL DOESN'T  
EXPLAIN HOW  
HE COULD HAVE  
BEATEN  
KEISUKE'S  
FD.



...BUT  
THE MAN  
AT THE  
WHEEL!

PERHAPS IT'S  
NOT THE CAR  
THAT'S THE  
MONSTER...



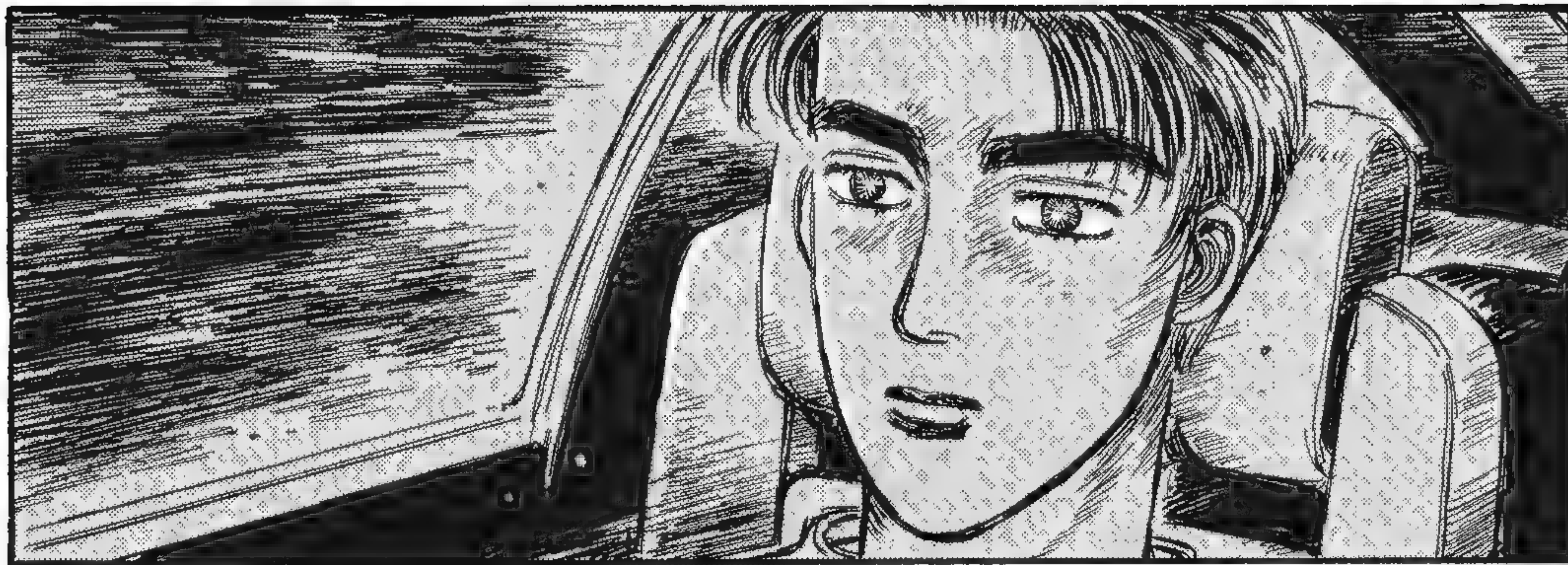




I DON'T  
UNDER-  
STAND IT!  
I MUST  
BE GOING  
CRAZY!

HE  
CAUGHT  
ME?!













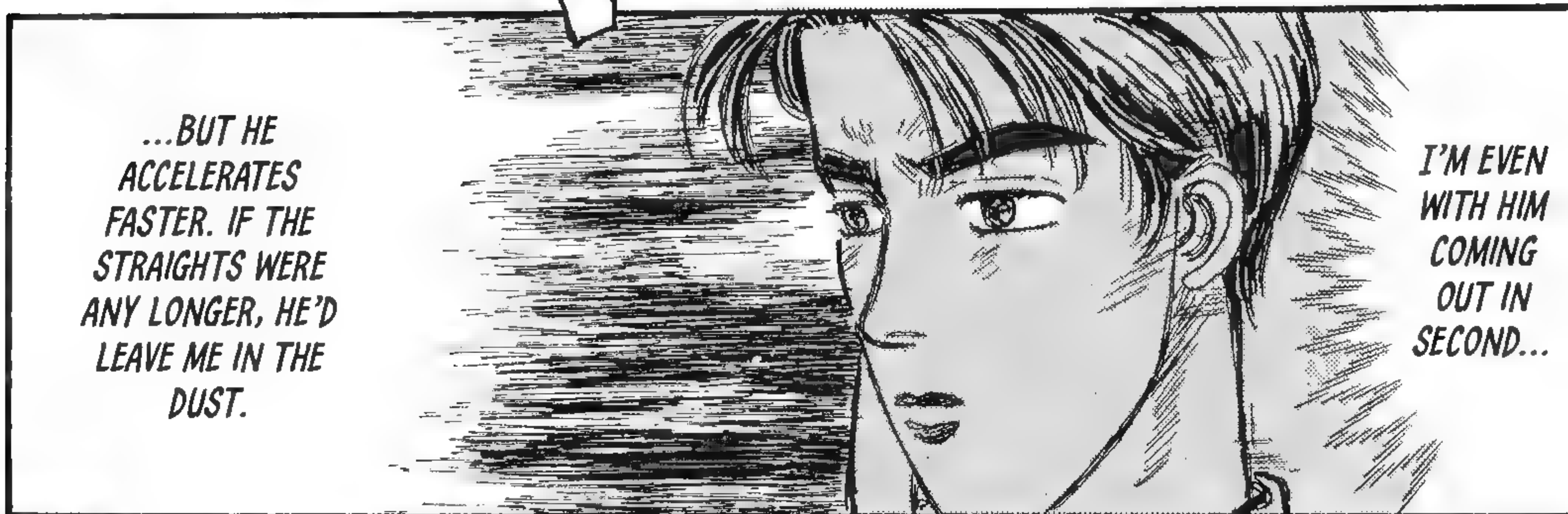
YOU EVER  
HEARD OF  
A DRIVER  
LIKE HIM ON  
AKINA?!

ANYONE  
KNOW  
WHO THIS  
GUY IS?!



WHAT'S  
THE DEAL  
WITH THIS  
EIGHT-  
SIX?!

ONE OF THE  
TAKAHASHI  
BROTHERS,  
THE FASTEST  
RACERS ON  
AKAGI—AND  
THIS GUY IS  
PRACTICALLY  
IN HIS  
TAILPIPE!



...BUT HE  
ACCELERATES  
FASTER. IF THE  
STRAIGHTS WERE  
ANY LONGER, HE'D  
LEAVE ME IN THE  
DUST.

I'M EVEN  
WITH HIM  
COMING  
OUT IN  
SECOND...



HEY! THIS  
IS THE FIRST  
CHECKPOINT,  
ON THE  
ICE RINK  
STRAIGHT!







YOU'RE  
NEVER  
GONNA  
BELIEVE  
THIS!

START  
LINE  
HERE.

WHAT'S  
GOT  
YOU SO  
EXCITED?



DO  
YOU  
READ  
ME?



I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
THE STORY  
IS, BUT THIS  
ISN'T HOW IT'S  
S'POSED TO  
GO! WHEREVER  
AKINA FOUND  
THAT EIGHT-  
SIX, HE'S  
TROUBLE!

THEY JUST  
WENT  
THROUGH,  
AND KEISUKE  
HAS THIS  
GUY ALL  
OVER HIM!

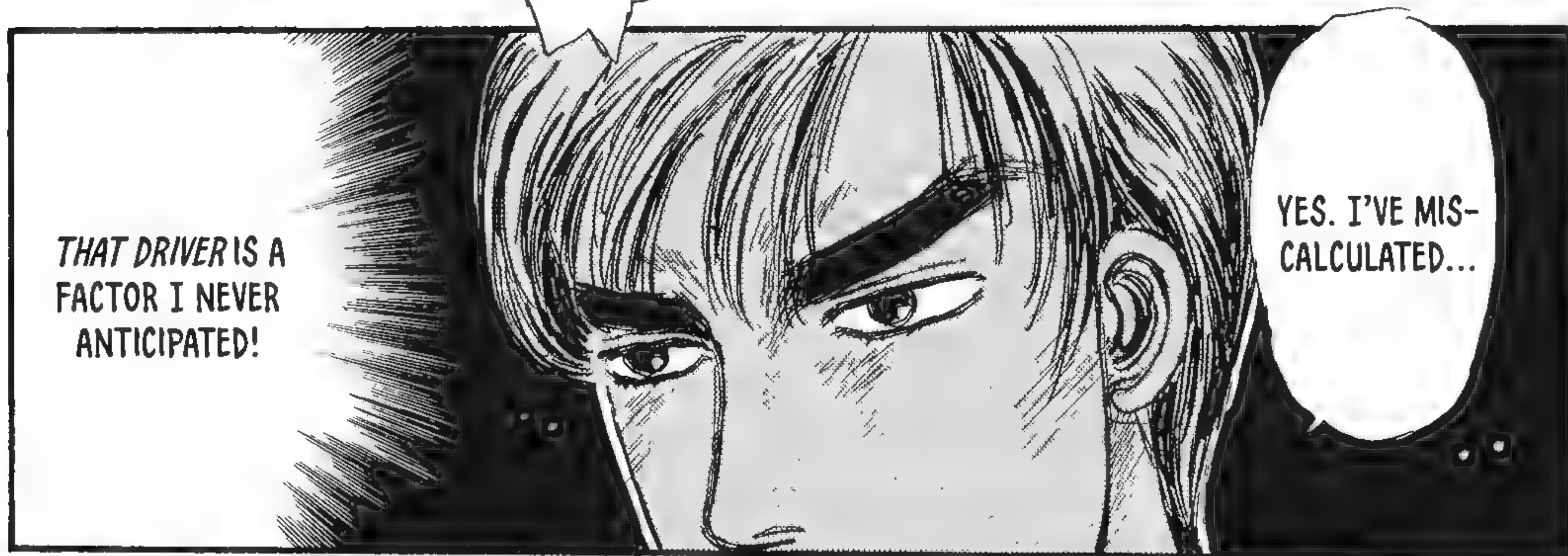


I DON'T THINK  
I'VE EVER SEEN  
SOMEONE PUSH  
KEISUKE'S FD  
THROUGH THE  
CORNERS LIKE  
THAT!

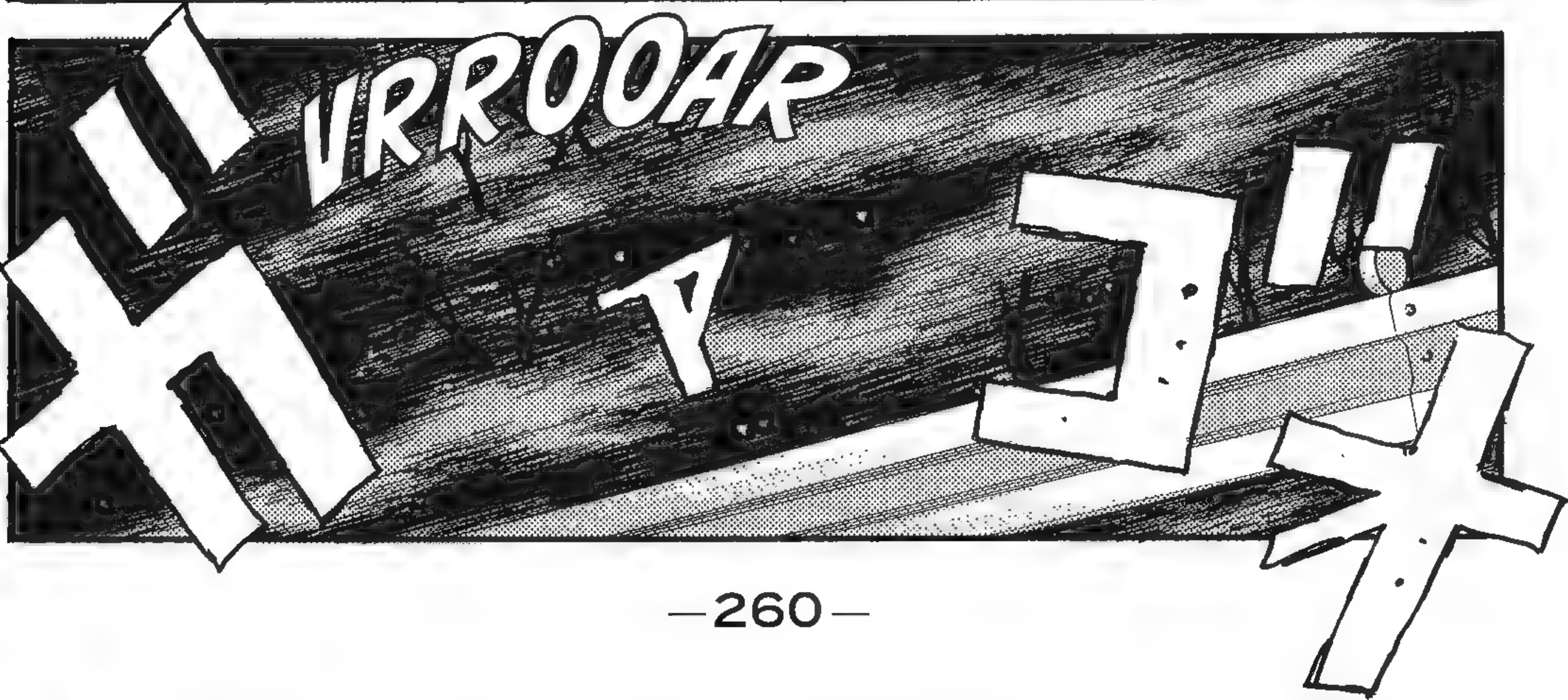
WE'VE  
NEVER HAD  
THIS KIND  
OF ACTION!



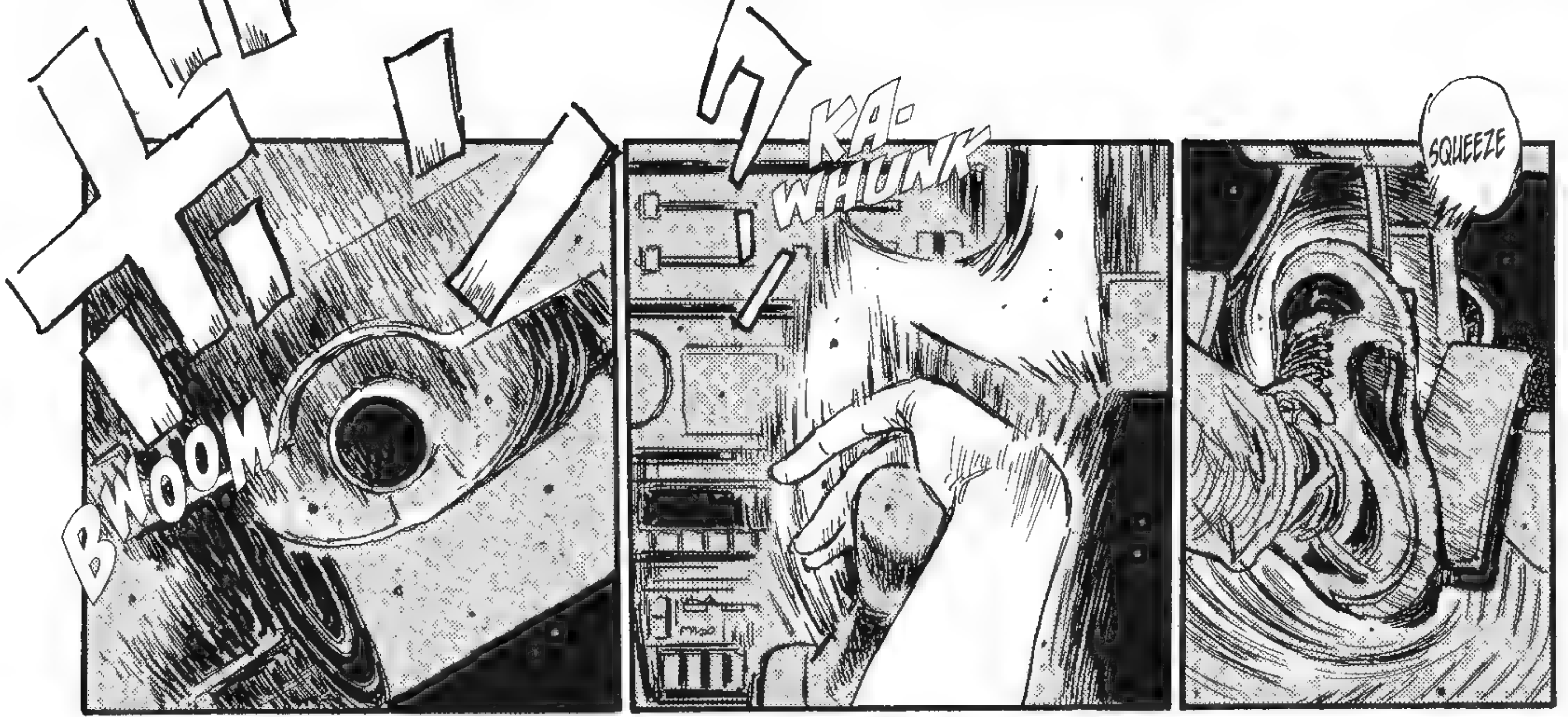




















FINE.  
ONE  
THING  
LEFT TO  
DO.

SHIT. I JUST  
KNOW POPS  
WON'T ADMIT  
I WON UNLESS  
I ACTUALLY  
GET BY HIM.

THIS GUY'S  
GOTTEN A  
LOT BETTER  
SINCE I SAW  
HIM LAST!

HE'S NOT  
GIVING ME  
ANYWHERE  
TO GET  
PAST.





AT THE  
SERIES  
OF FIVE  
HAIRPINS  
COMING  
UP!

AND I KNOW  
JUST WHERE  
TO DO IT!

SECOND  
CHECK-  
POINT, DO  
YOU READ  
ME?

THIS  
IS THE  
SUMMIT!

UAAAH

I CAN  
HEAR THE  
SQUEALING.  
THEY'LL  
BE IN THE  
HAIRPINS  
IN A  
MOMENT!

SURE  
THING.  
THEY'RE  
COMING  
NOW.

I WANT  
YOU TO TELL  
ME *EXACTLY*  
WHAT'S  
HAPPEN-  
ING. EVERY  
DETAIL!

THEY'LL  
BE COMING  
PAST YOU  
SHORTLY.











IS HE THAT  
MUCH BETTER  
THROUGH THE  
CORNERS?!

VRM

I'M  
FASTER IN  
A STRAIGHT  
LINE! BUT  
SOMEHOW,  
HE'S KEEPING  
UP WITH  
ME!

IT'S A  
RACER'S  
GREATEST  
SHAME!

TO BE  
CAUGHT IN  
THE CORNERS  
BY A LESS  
POWERFUL  
CAR...

SCREECH

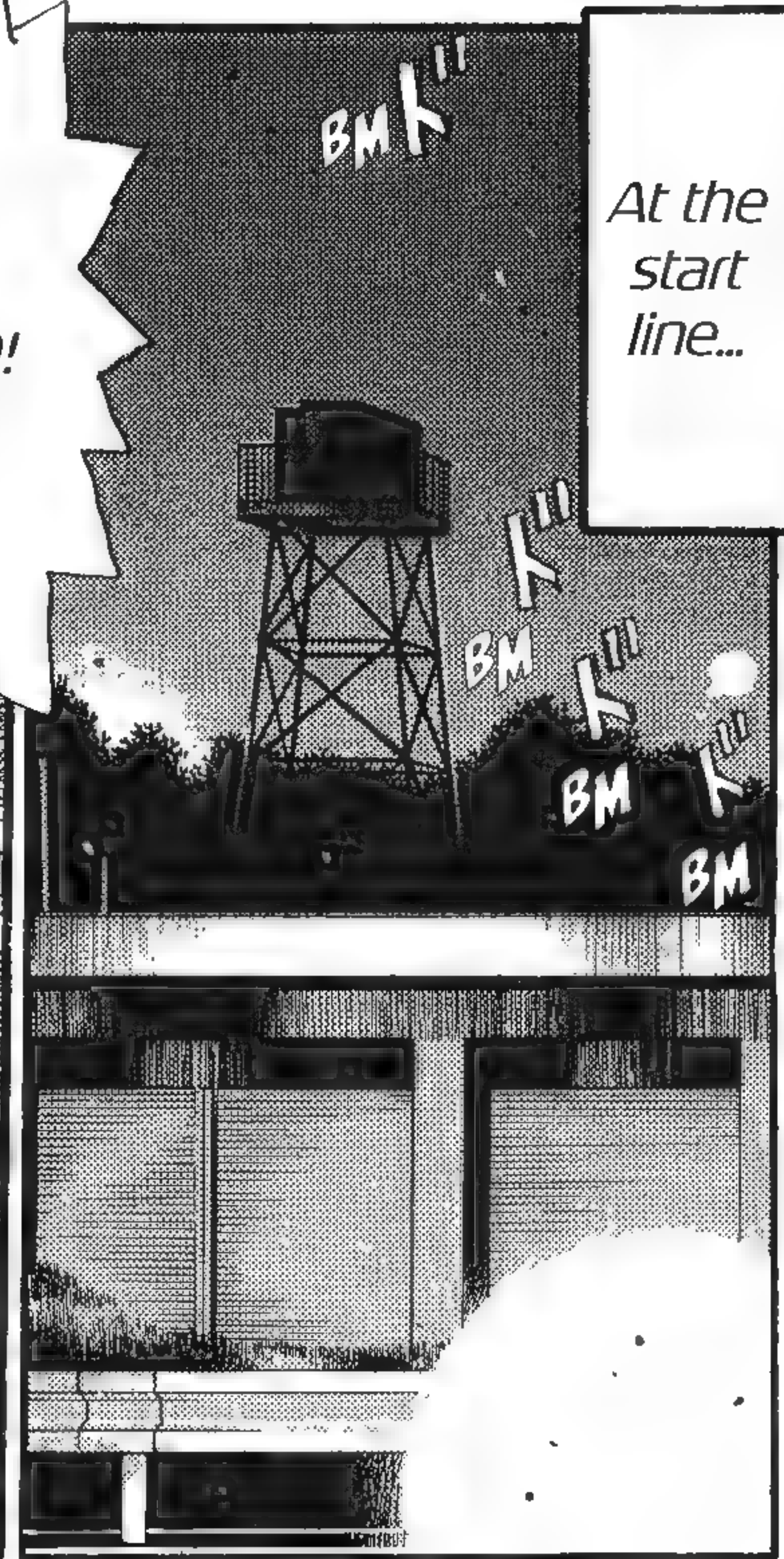
I'LL DIE  
BEFORE I  
ADMIT IT!

DON'T  
TELL ME THE  
FREAKING  
SECONDARY  
TURBO  
CRAPPED OUT  
ON ME!

ROAR

WHAT'S  
GOING ON?!  
WHY DOES  
MY FD FEEL  
SO SLOW  
TONIGHT?!









HOLY SHIT!



SORRY!  
I JUST...  
HOLY SHIT,  
MAN!

COME IN!  
WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON? SAY  
SOME-  
THING!

ALL  
I HEAR  
IS TIRE  
SQUEAL.

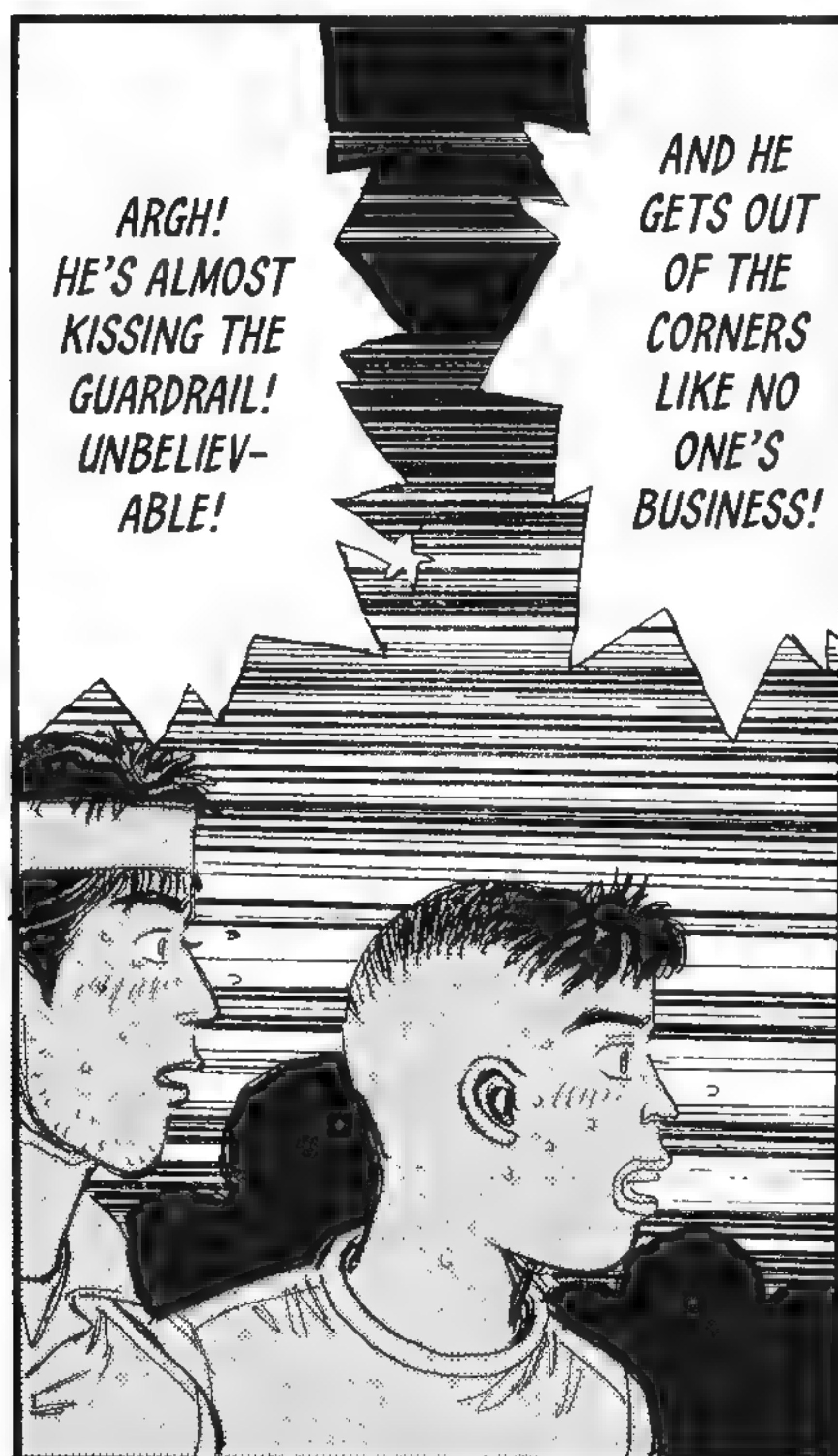


...



S  
C  
R  
C  
H

...  
(DEAD  
AIR)



ARGH!  
HE'S ALMOST  
KISSING THE  
GUARDRAIL!  
UNBELIEV-  
ABLE!

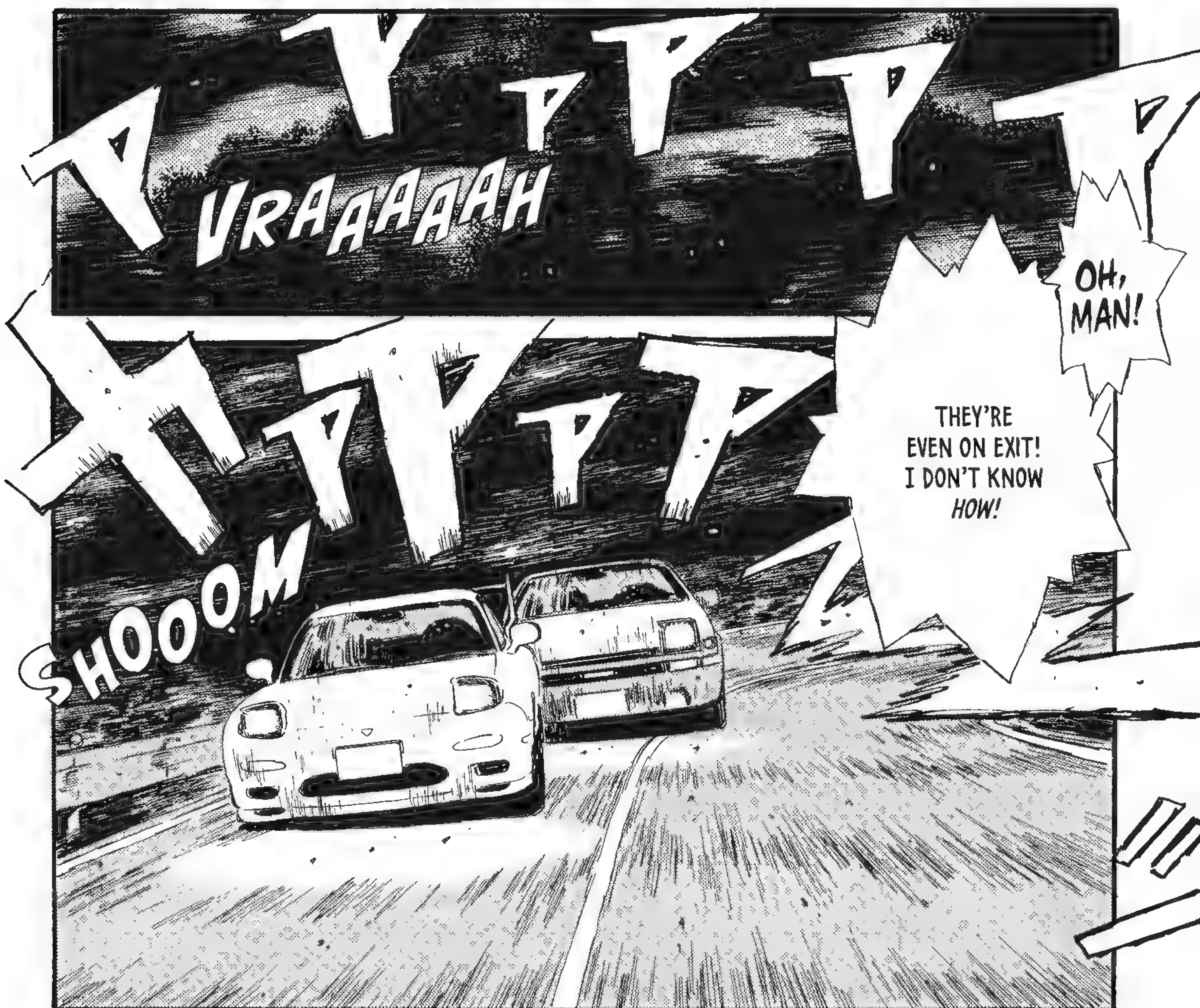
AND HE  
GETS OUT  
OF THE  
CORNERS  
LIKE NO  
ONE'S  
BUSINESS!



HIS BRAKING  
DRIFT IS DAMN  
NEAR PERFECT!  
EVEN KEISUKE  
DOESN'T TAKE  
CORNERS THAT  
HARD!

THAT EIGHT-  
SIX... I'VE  
NEVER SEEN  
ANYTHING  
LIKE IT!







THE FD IS  
MOVING TO THE  
OUTSIDE TO SET  
UP THE TURN,  
SO THE EIGHT-  
SIX HAS TO—

THEY'RE  
ON THEIR  
WAY TO  
THE NEXT  
HAIRPIN,  
FULL  
THROTTLE!

OH,  
GOD!







DID HIS  
FREAKIN'  
BRAKES  
GO  
OUT?!

HRGH!!

THE EIGHT-  
SIX IS WAY  
TOO HOT  
FOR THIS  
HAIRPIN!

TO THE STUNNED  
CROWD, THE MOVE  
LOOKS SUICIDAL!

TAKUMI ROCKETS  
INTO THE CORNER,  
OBVIOUSLY GOING  
MUCH TOO FAST!

NO,  
WAIT...!

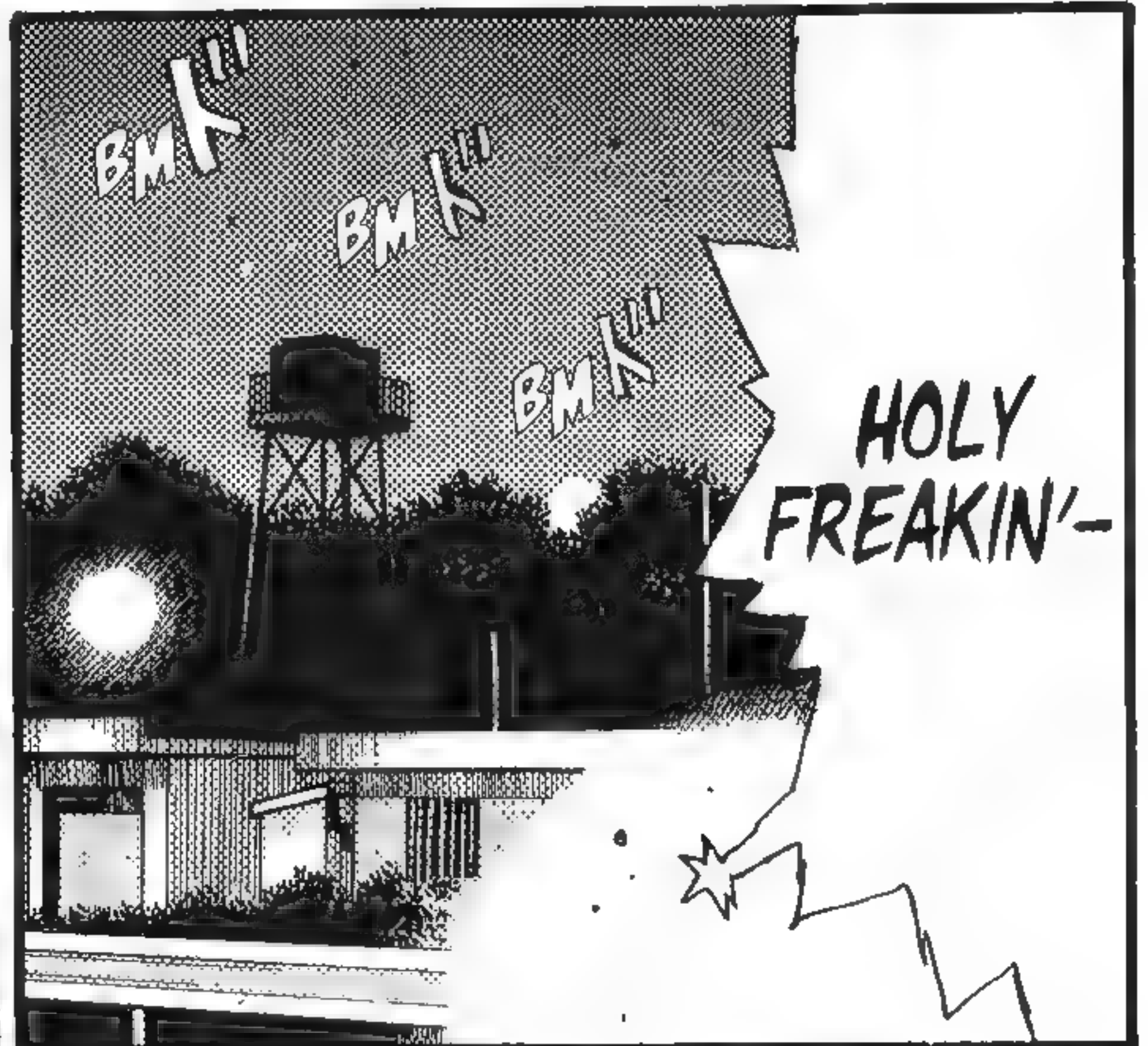
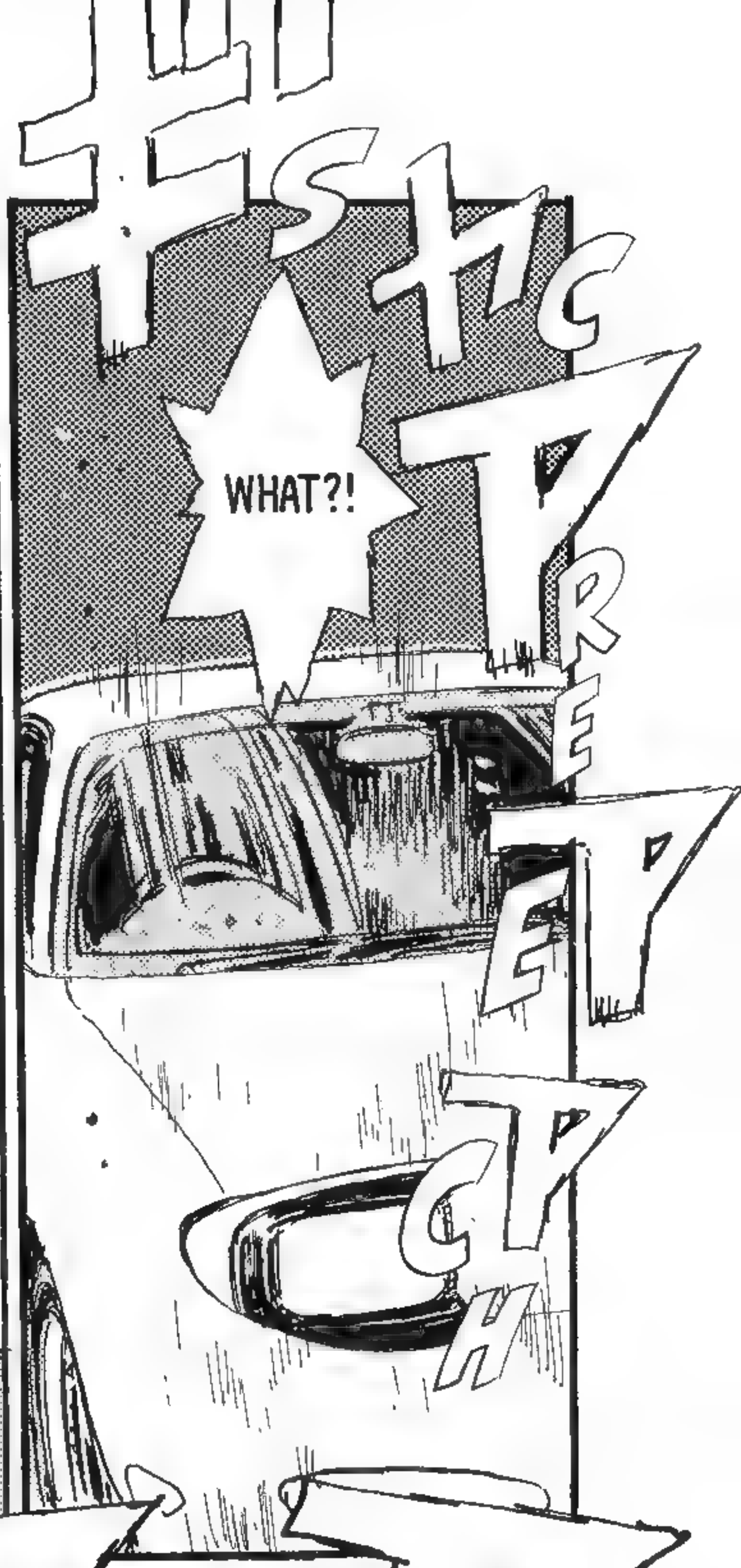




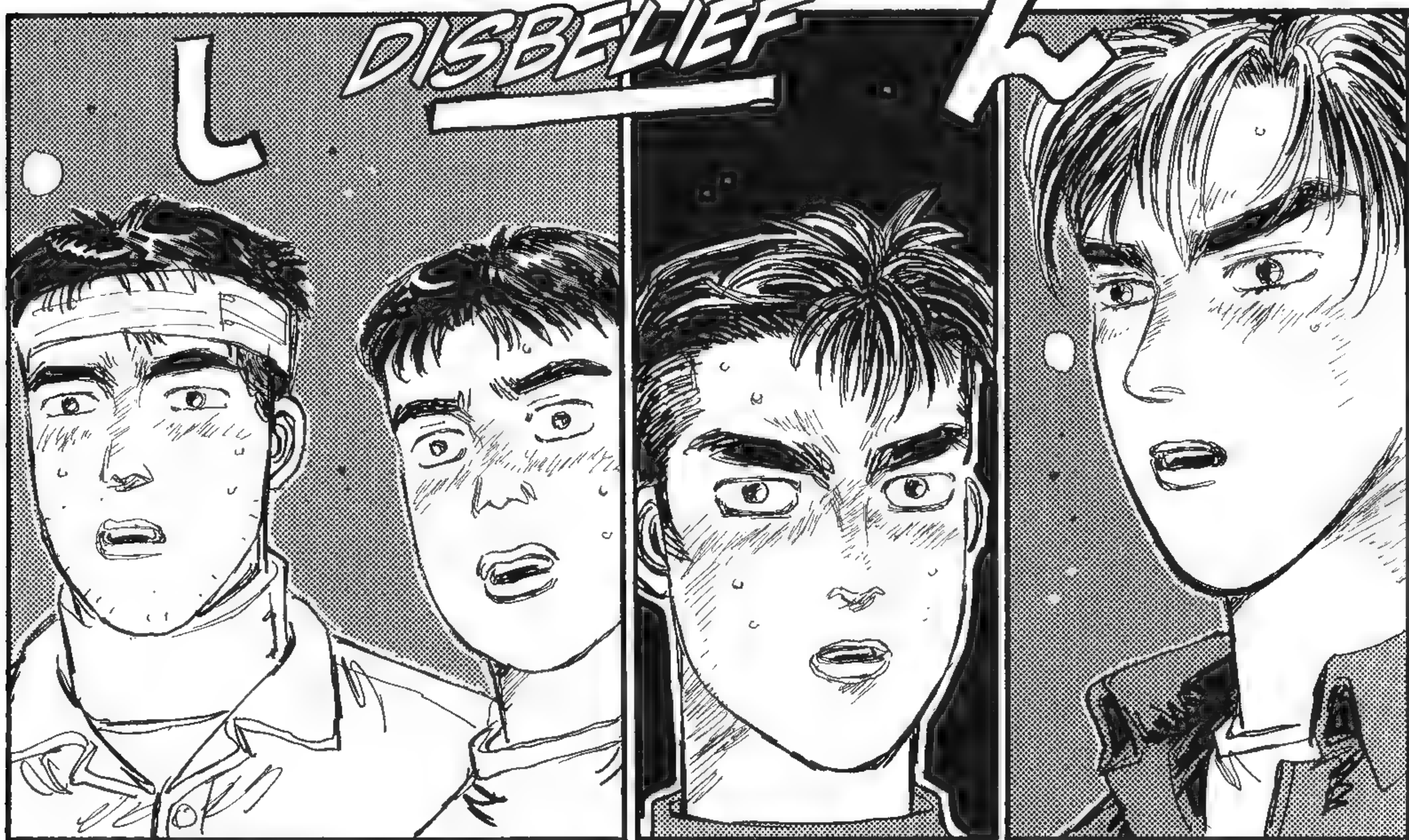




WHAT  
THE  
HELL  
DID HE  
JUST  
DO?!











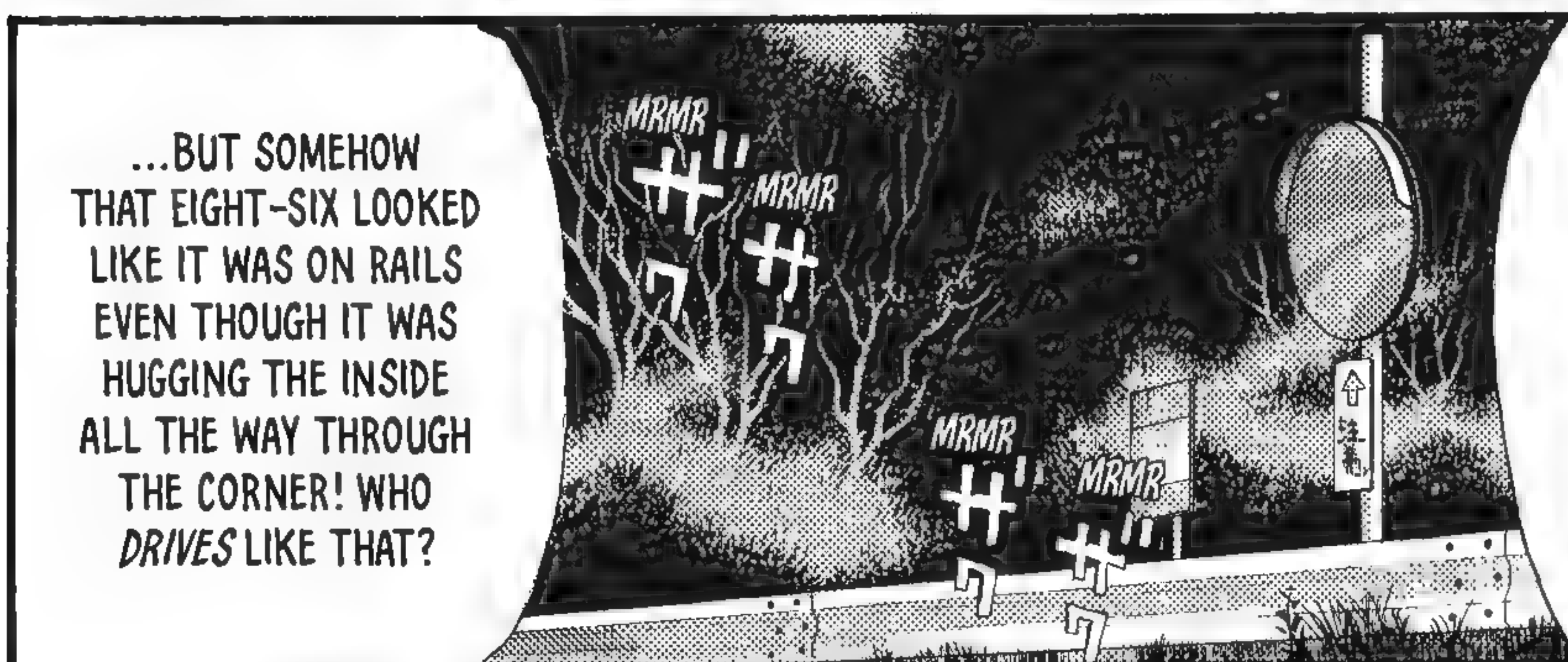
DAMNED  
IF I  
KNOW.

THE  
HELL D'YOU  
THINK THAT  
WAS?



I WISH  
I KNEW  
WHAT  
HAPPENED!

...AND  
I SAW  
IT!



...BUT SOMEHOW  
THAT EIGHT-SIX LOOKED  
LIKE IT WAS ON RAILS  
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS  
HUGGING THE INSIDE  
ALL THE WAY THROUGH  
THE CORNER! WHO  
DRIVES LIKE THAT?

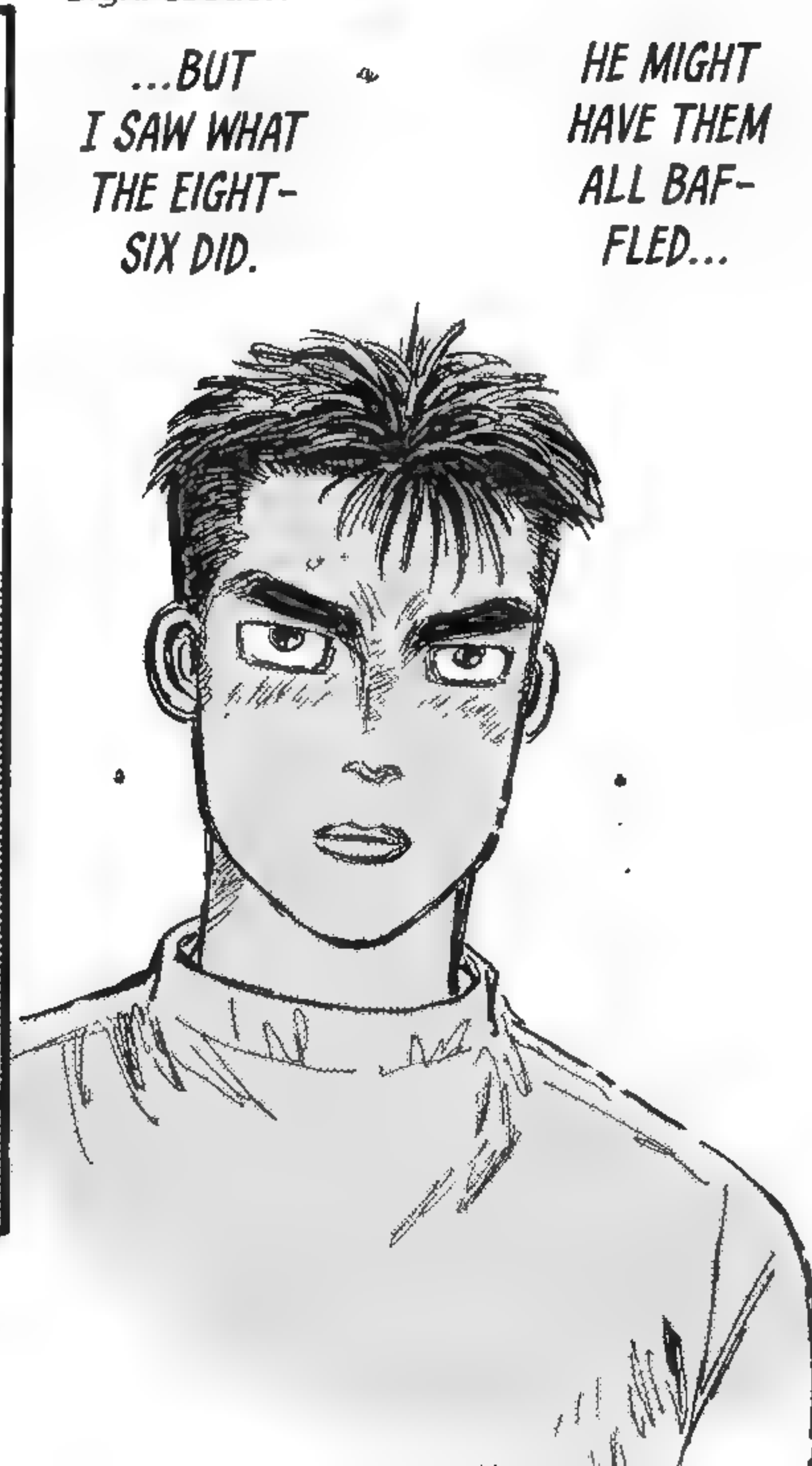
A CAR  
WON'T TURN  
IF YOU'RE  
GOING TOO  
FAST FOR THE  
LIMIT OF  
THE TIRES'  
GRIP...

Sign: Caution



AND IT  
COULD ONLY  
HAPPEN  
HERE, ON  
AKINA.


IT WAS  
A STUPID  
STUNT,  
BUT ONE  
NOBODY  
ELSE COULD  
PULL OFF.



...BUT  
I SAW WHAT  
THE EIGHT-  
SIX DID.

HE MIGHT  
HAVE THEM  
ALL BAF-  
FLED...





I'M GOING  
TO BE THE  
ONE TO PUT  
HIM IN HIS  
PLACE!

SO,  
AKINA HAS  
A DOWNHILL  
SPECIALIST.

THINGS JUST  
GOT THAT  
MUCH MORE  
INTERESTING.

THERE'S  
A LOT OF  
RECKLESS  
ASSHOLES  
IN THE  
WORLD...

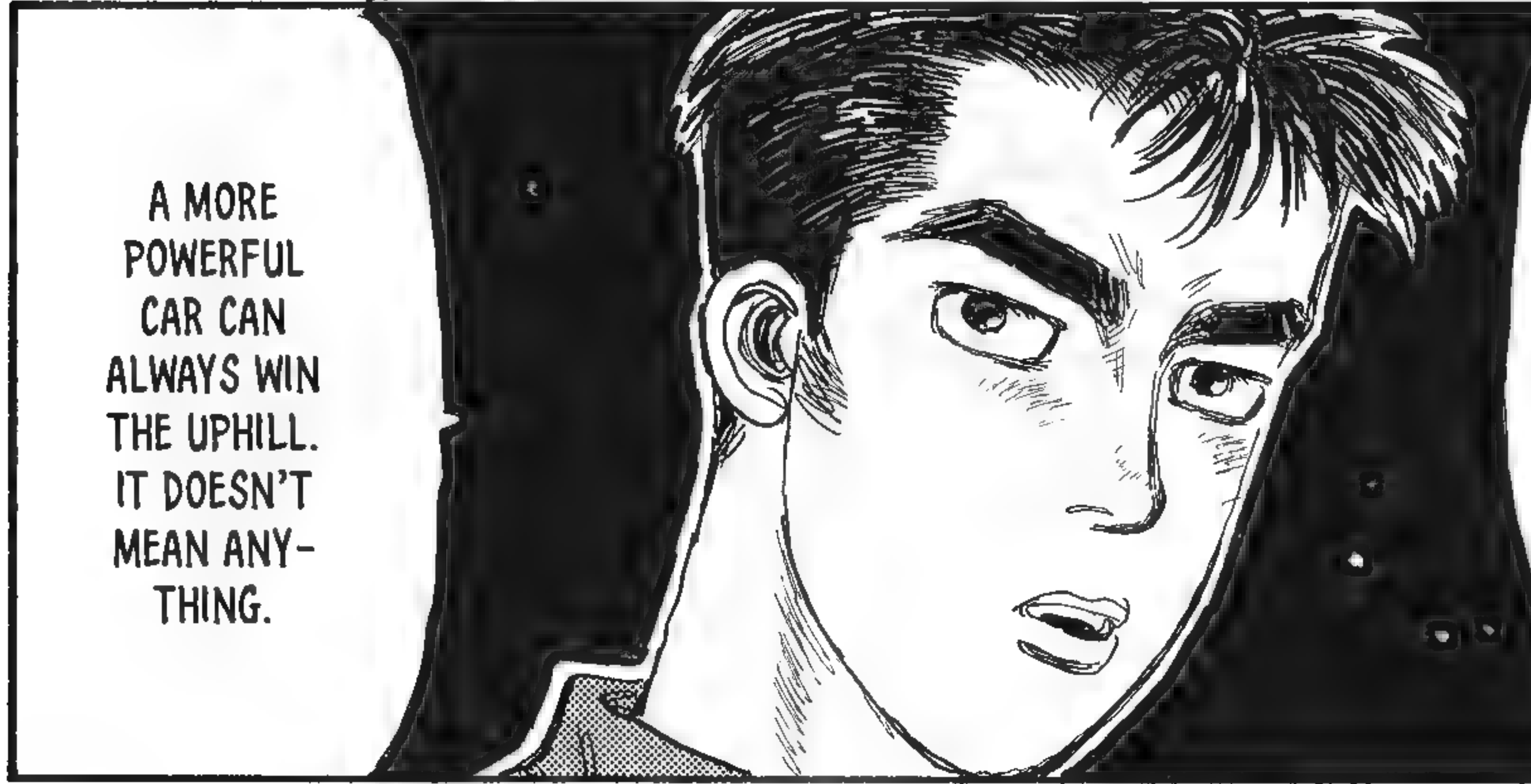


WHATEVER  
HAPPENS,  
IT WON'T  
BLOW US  
AWAY LIKE  
WHAT WE  
JUST SAW.

I COULDN'T  
CARE LESS  
ABOUT THE  
UPHILL.

THEY'VE  
STILL  
GOTTA DO  
THE HILL  
CLIMB.

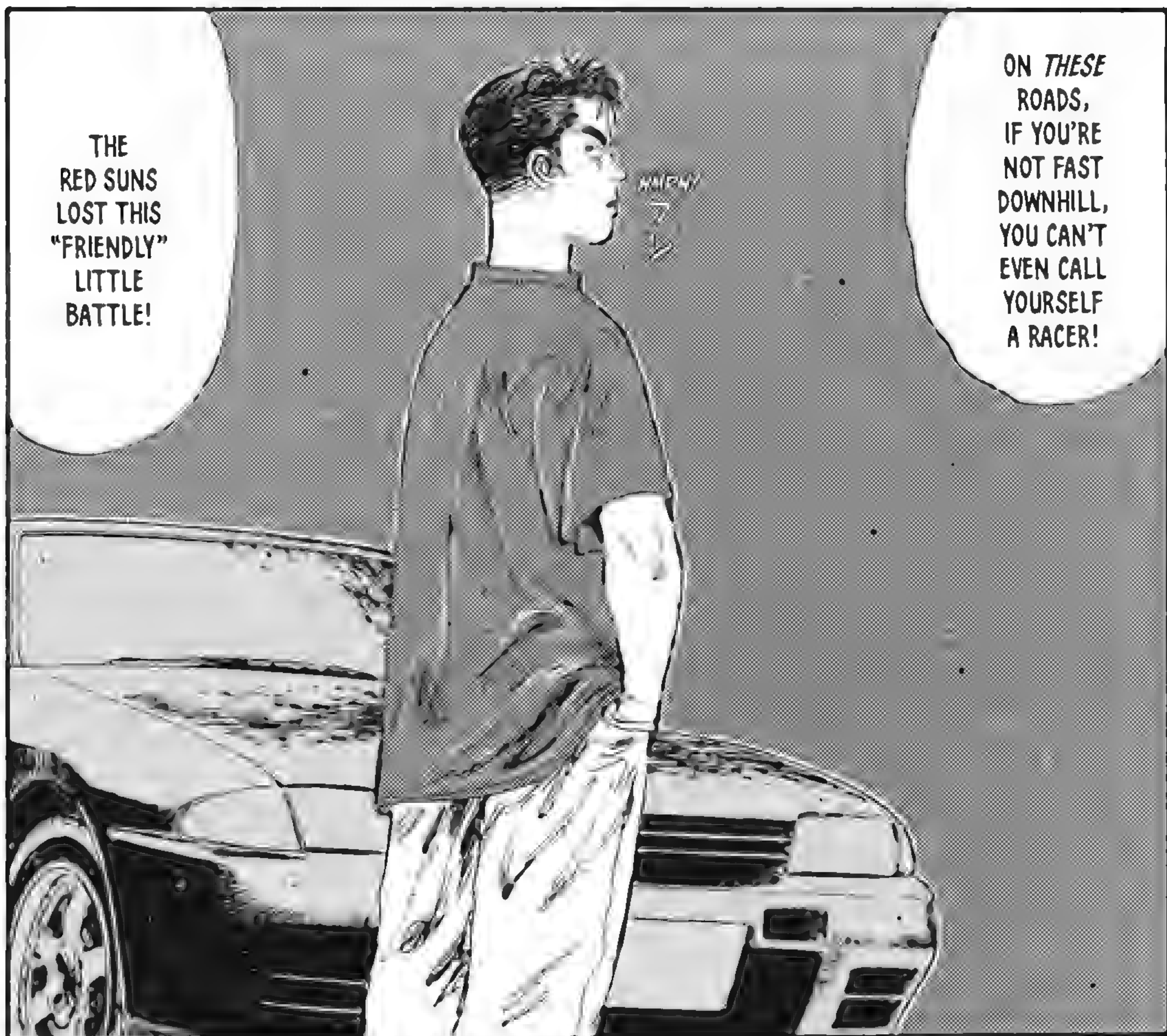
HEADIN'  
OUT  
ALREADY,  
TAKESHI-  
SAN?



A MORE  
POWERFUL  
CAR CAN  
ALWAYS WIN  
THE UPHILL.  
IT DOESN'T  
MEAN ANY-  
THING.

EVEN  
IF THE RED  
SUNS WIN THE  
HILL CLIMB,  
SO WHAT? IT  
HARDLY COUNTS,  
AS FAR AS I'M  
CONCERNED.





THE  
RED SUNS  
LOST THIS  
"FRIENDLY"  
LITTLE  
BATTLE!

ON *THESE*  
ROADS,  
IF YOU'RE  
NOT FAST  
DOWNHILL,  
YOU CAN'T  
EVEN CALL  
YOURSELF  
A RACER!



RRRRR  
MM  
T  
T

T  
T  
T

T

T





IT MIGHT AS WELL BE AN ETERNITY!







I DON'T  
KNOW HOW,  
BUT THAT  
ZONED-OUT  
LOSER'S  
THE  
WINNER!

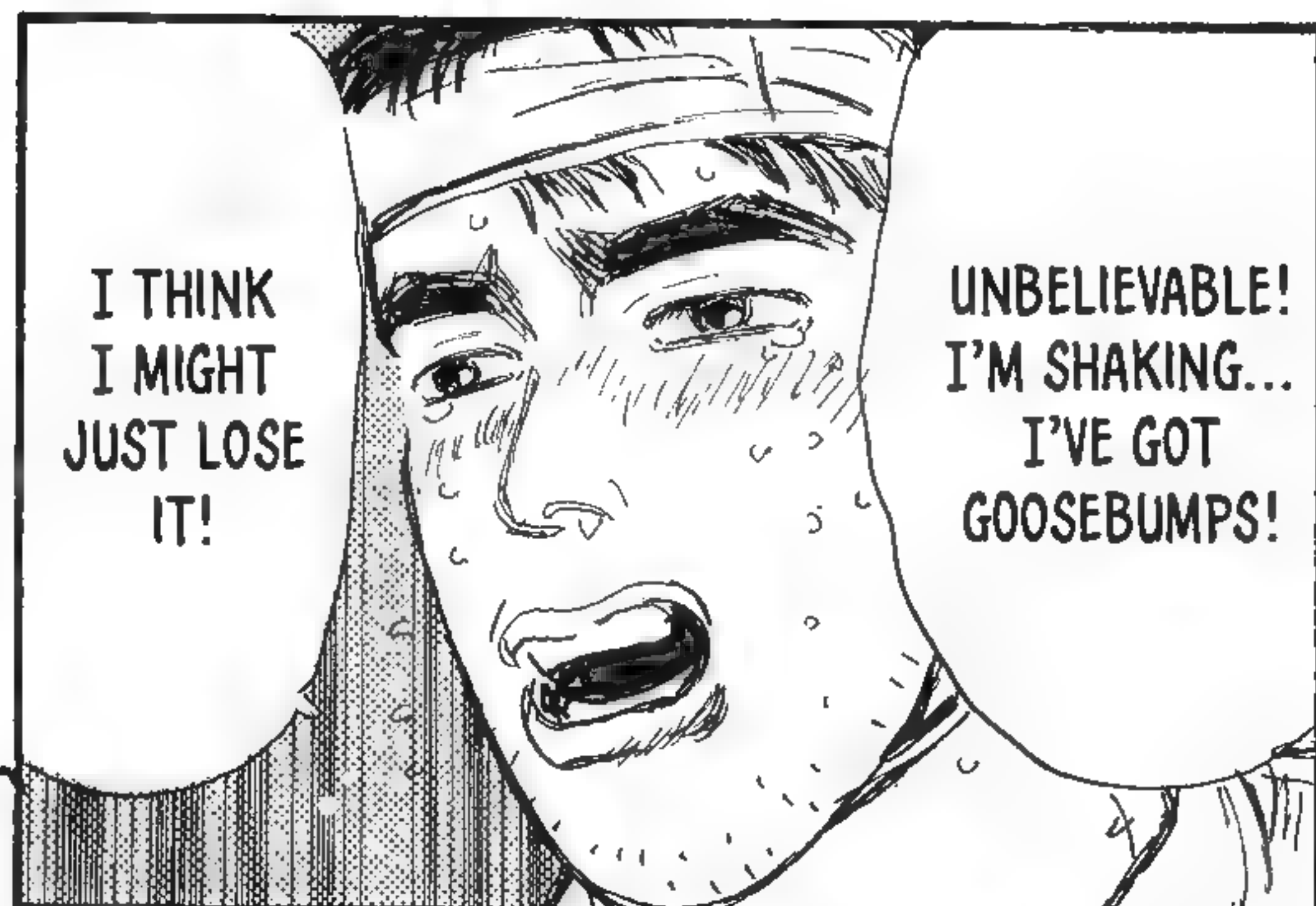
HE DID  
IT, IKETANI-  
SENPAI! HE  
WON!



I HAVEN'T  
BEEN THIS  
HAPPY IN...  
HELL,  
I DON'T  
EVEN  
KNOW!

AH HA HA HA HA HA!

GEEZ,  
IKETANI,  
YA DON'T  
HAVE TO CRY  
ABOUT IT!



I THINK  
I MIGHT  
JUST LOSE  
IT!

UNBELIEVABLE!  
I'M SHAKING...  
I'VE GOT  
GOOSEBUMPS!



OOH!  
I CAN  
DO THAT,  
IKETANI-  
SENPAI!

AH  
HA  
HA  
HA!

WHEN YOU SEE  
THAT EIGHT-SIX  
AGAIN, SLAP A  
SPEED STARS  
STICKER ON  
IT! HE'S PART  
OF THE CLUB  
NOW, WHETHER  
HE LIKES IT OR  
NOT!



Y'KNOW,  
HOW TO  
CONTROL  
MY DRIFTS  
OR PICK MY  
LINES...

MAYBE I CAN  
GET HIM TO  
GIVE ME A FEW  
POINTERS  
NEXT TIME  
I SEE HIM!

THIS  
FEELS  
GREAT!



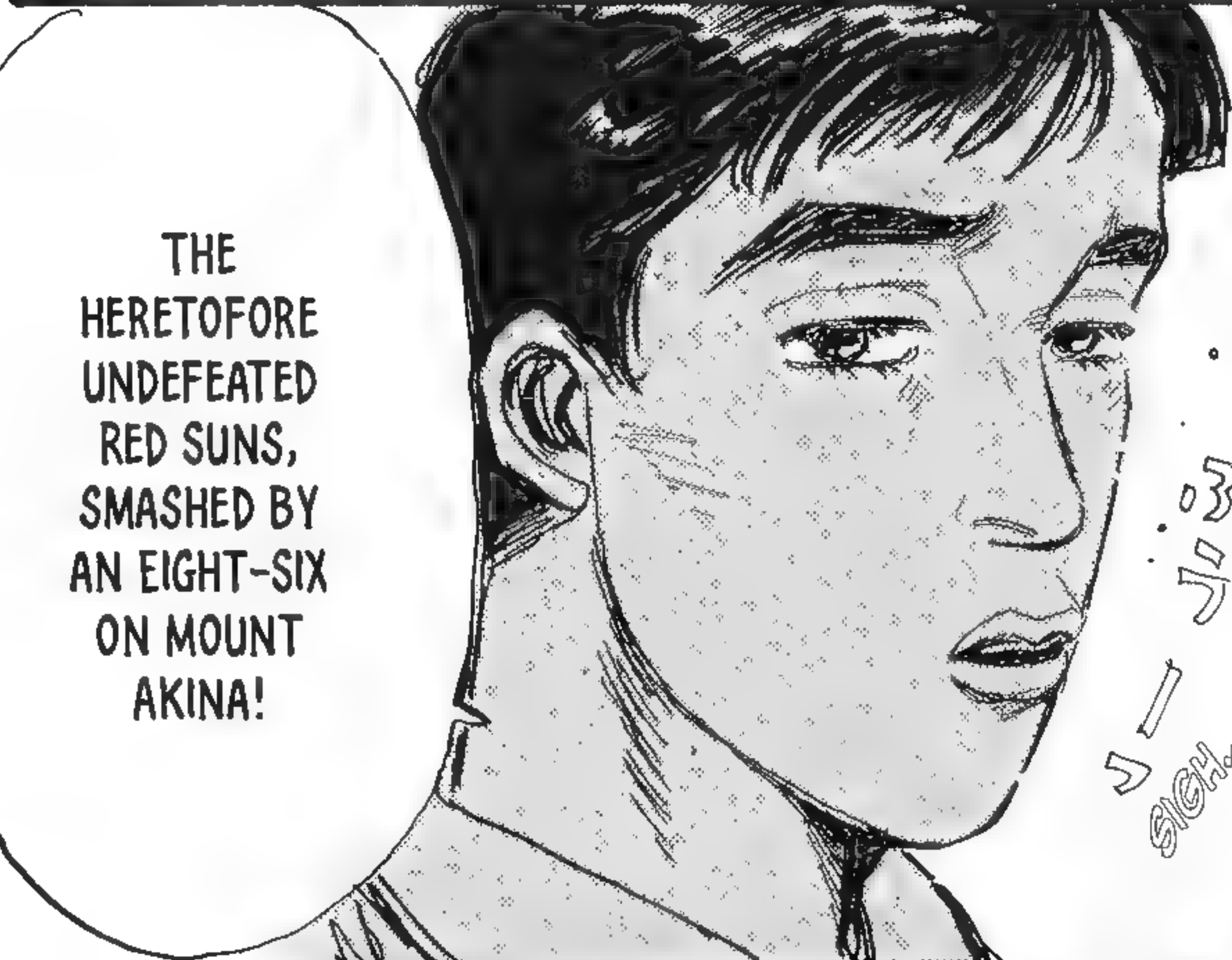


IT WAS  
OUR MISTAKE.  
WE NEVER  
EXPECTED SUCH  
A BRILLIANT  
DRIVER FROM  
SUCH A MINOR  
COURSE.

WELL,  
WE HAVE  
TO FACE  
IT: WE  
LOST.

AH  
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA!

BM!! : BM!!



THE  
HERETOFORE  
UNDEFEATED  
RED SUNS,  
SMASHED BY  
AN EIGHT-SIX  
ON MOUNT  
AKINA!

EVERY  
RACER IN  
GUNMA WILL  
KNOW ABOUT  
THIS BY  
TOMORROW  
MORNING.

IT  
STINGS,  
TO LOSE  
WITH ALL  
THESE  
PEOPLE  
WATCHING.



...IN MY  
OWN FC!

IT  
WON'T  
BE LONG  
BEFORE  
I SET  
THINGS  
RIGHT,  
THOUGH...

THE PACKED  
GALLERY WAS  
SUPPOSED TO  
SPREAD WORD  
OF OUR  
PROWESS.  
THAT BACK-  
FIRED.



In  
the five  
hairpins

Hours  
later...

IT WAS  
THIS RIGHT,  
BRO.

I GET THE  
SHIVERS JUST  
THINKING  
ABOUT IT.  
HE REALLY IS  
LIKE A GHOST,  
BRO!

I  
CAN'T FIGURE IT  
OUT! AN EIGHT-SIX  
ON A TIGHT LINE  
SHOULD NEVER  
HAVE BEEN ABLE  
TO GO FASTER  
THAN MY FD!

WANT ME  
TO TELL  
YOU?

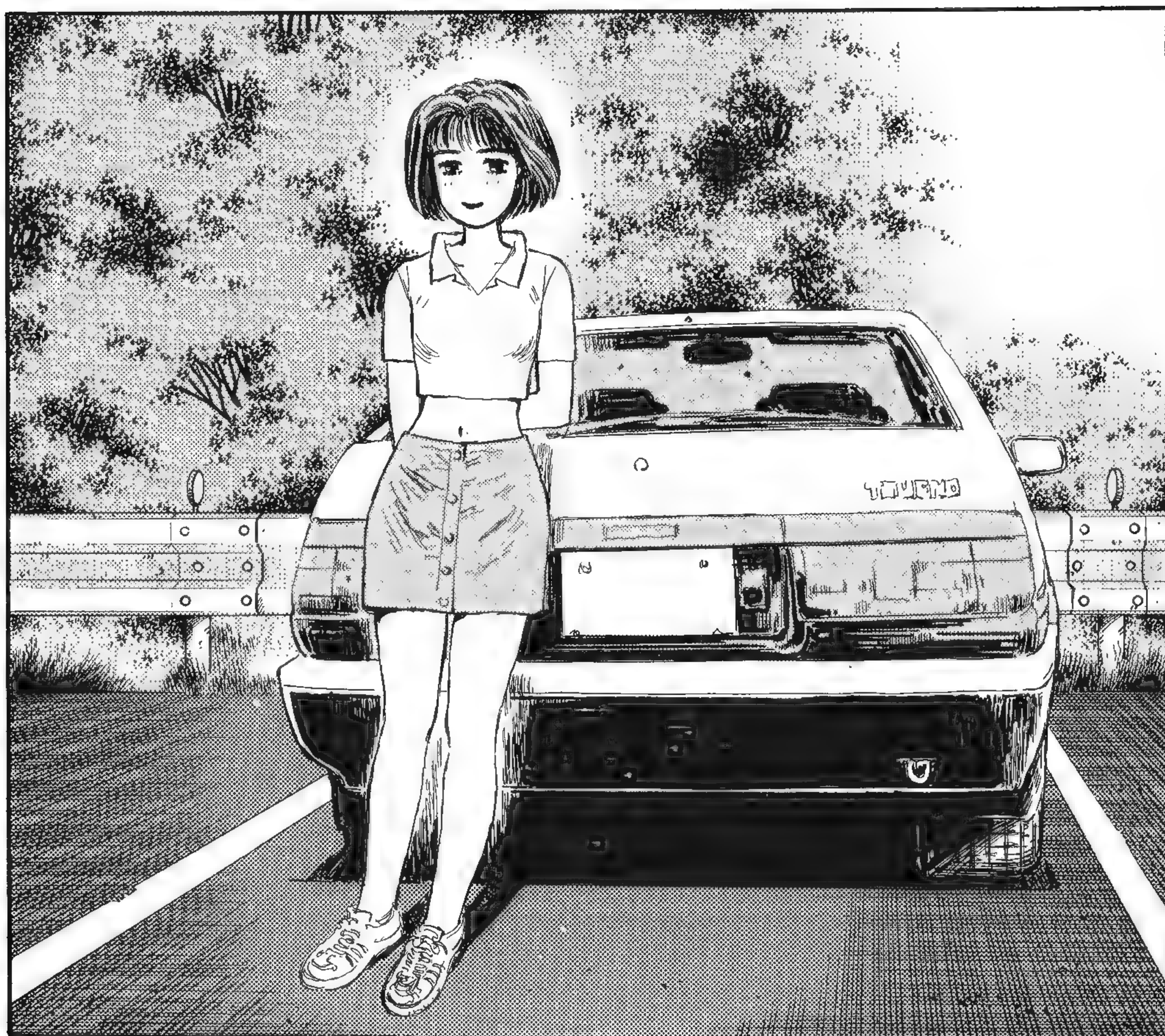
I KNOW  
WHY YOU  
LOST.

THE  
ANSWER  
TO THE  
RIDDLE.

I  
SEE IT,  
KEISUKE.



▶ *Ch. 14: The Vast, Wide Sea*

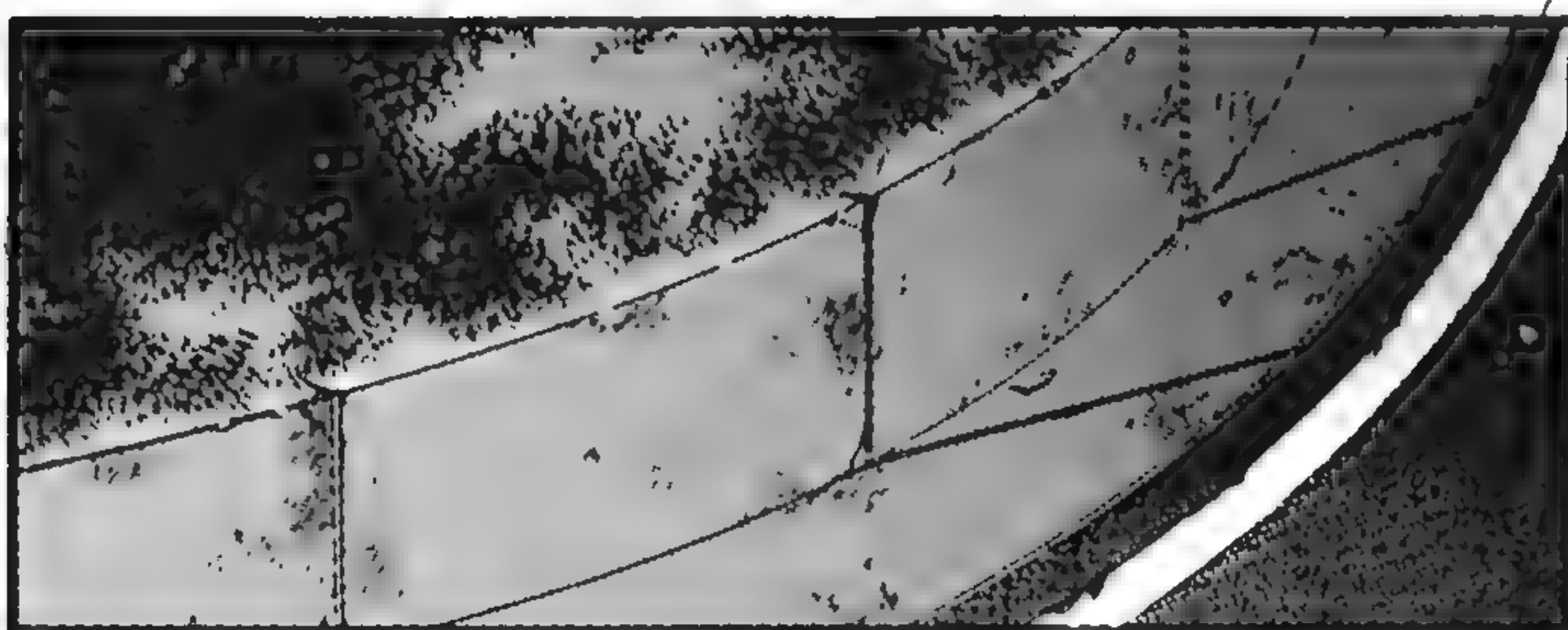






WANT ME  
TO TELL  
YOU?

I KNOW  
HOW HE  
PASSED  
YOU.



THE  
EIGHT-SIX  
DRIVER'S  
LITTLE  
SECRET.

IT'S  
RIGHT  
HERE.

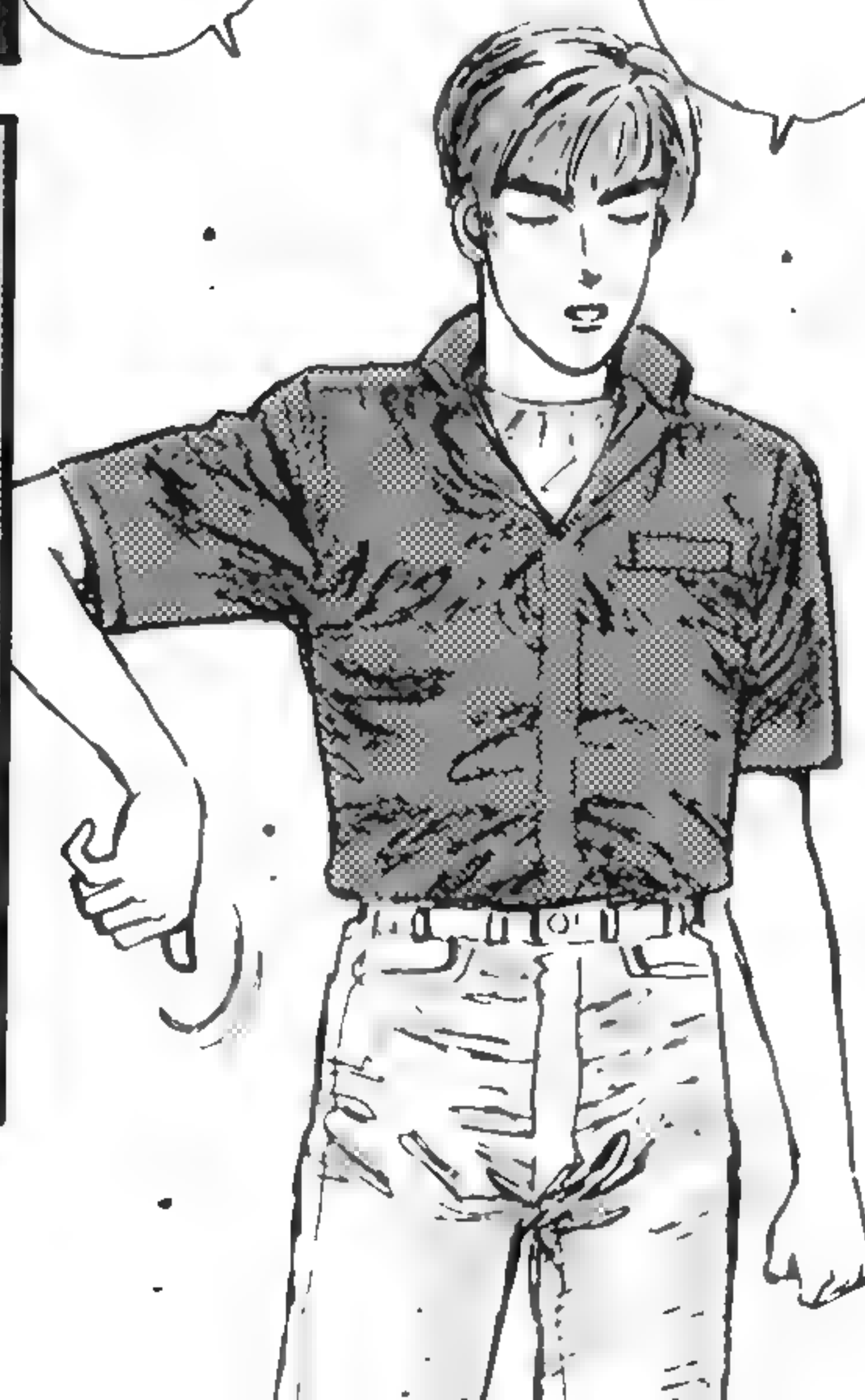


IT'S THE  
GUTTER.

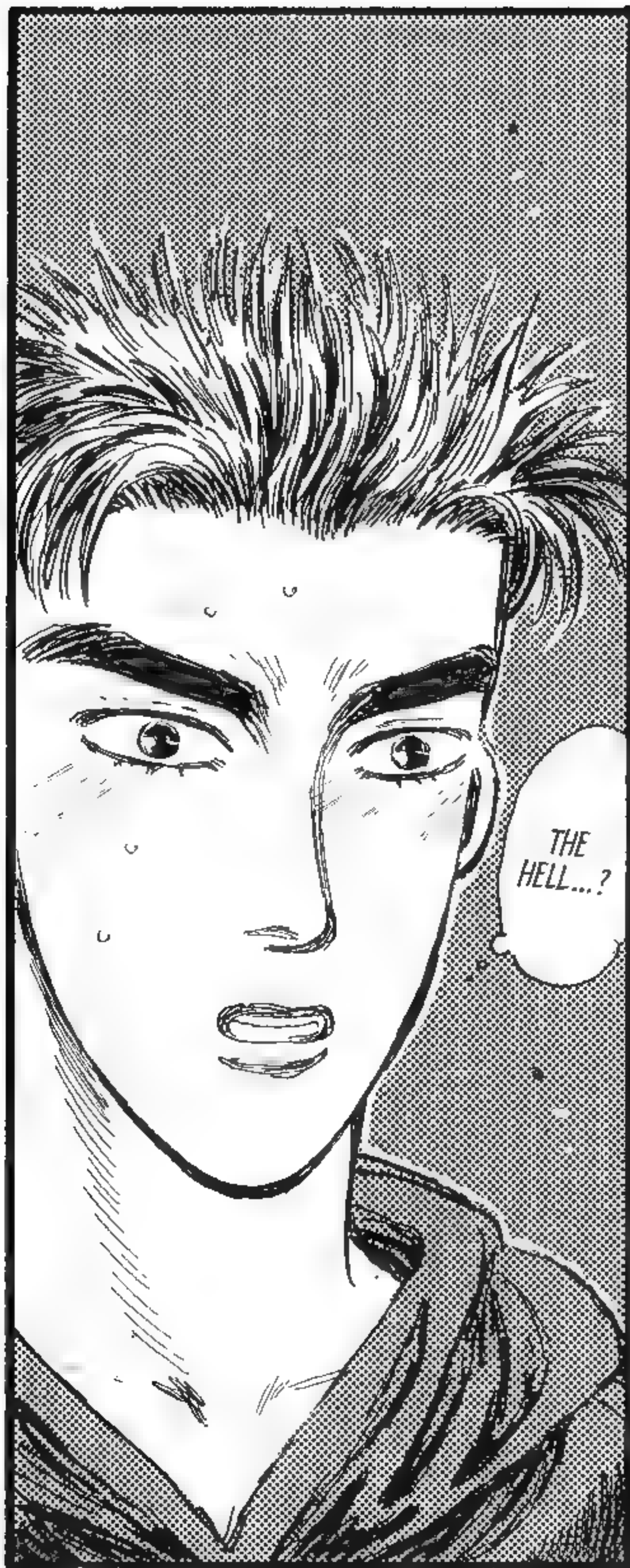
STILL  
DON'T  
GET IT?



OFF  
THE  
LINE

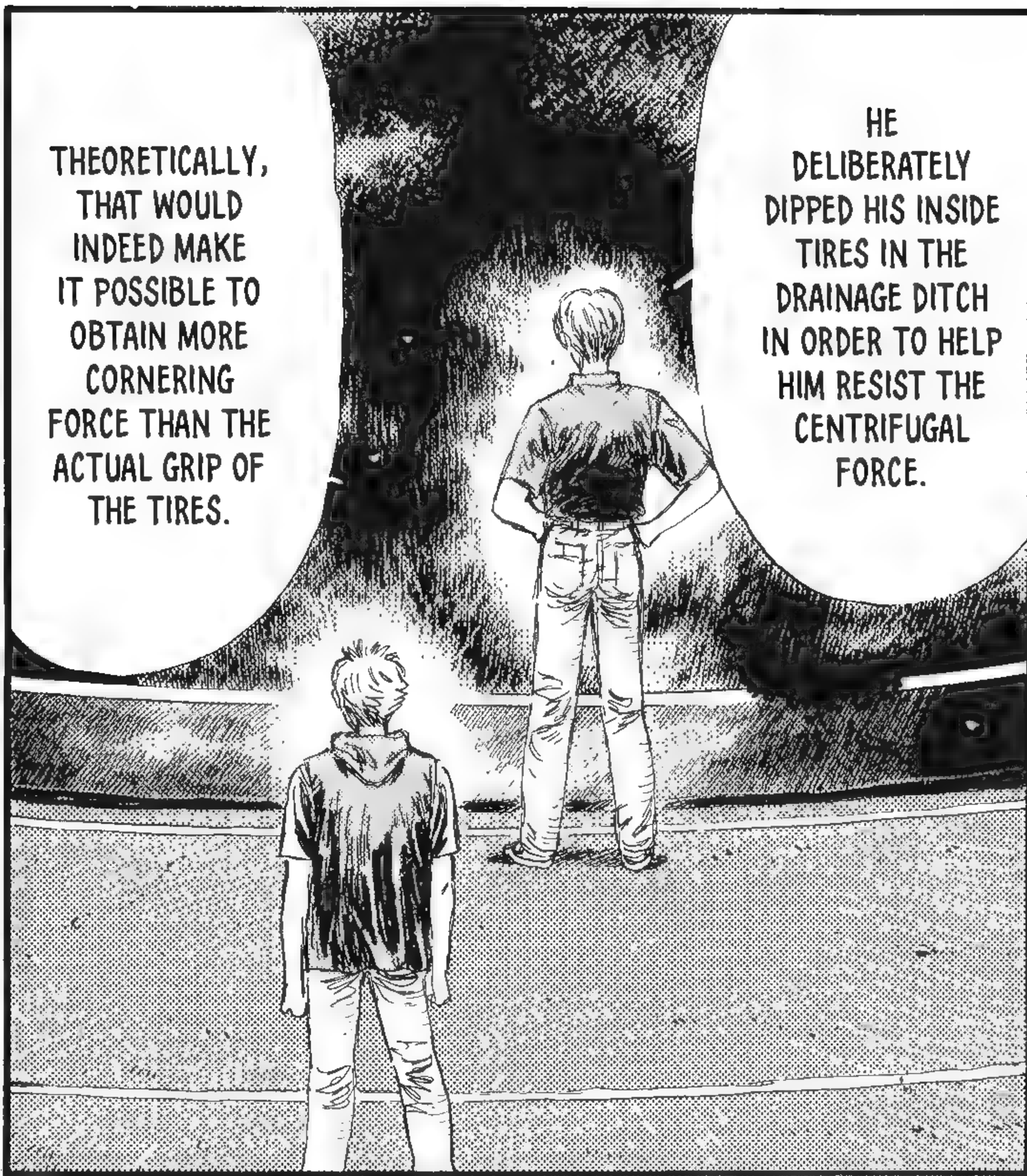




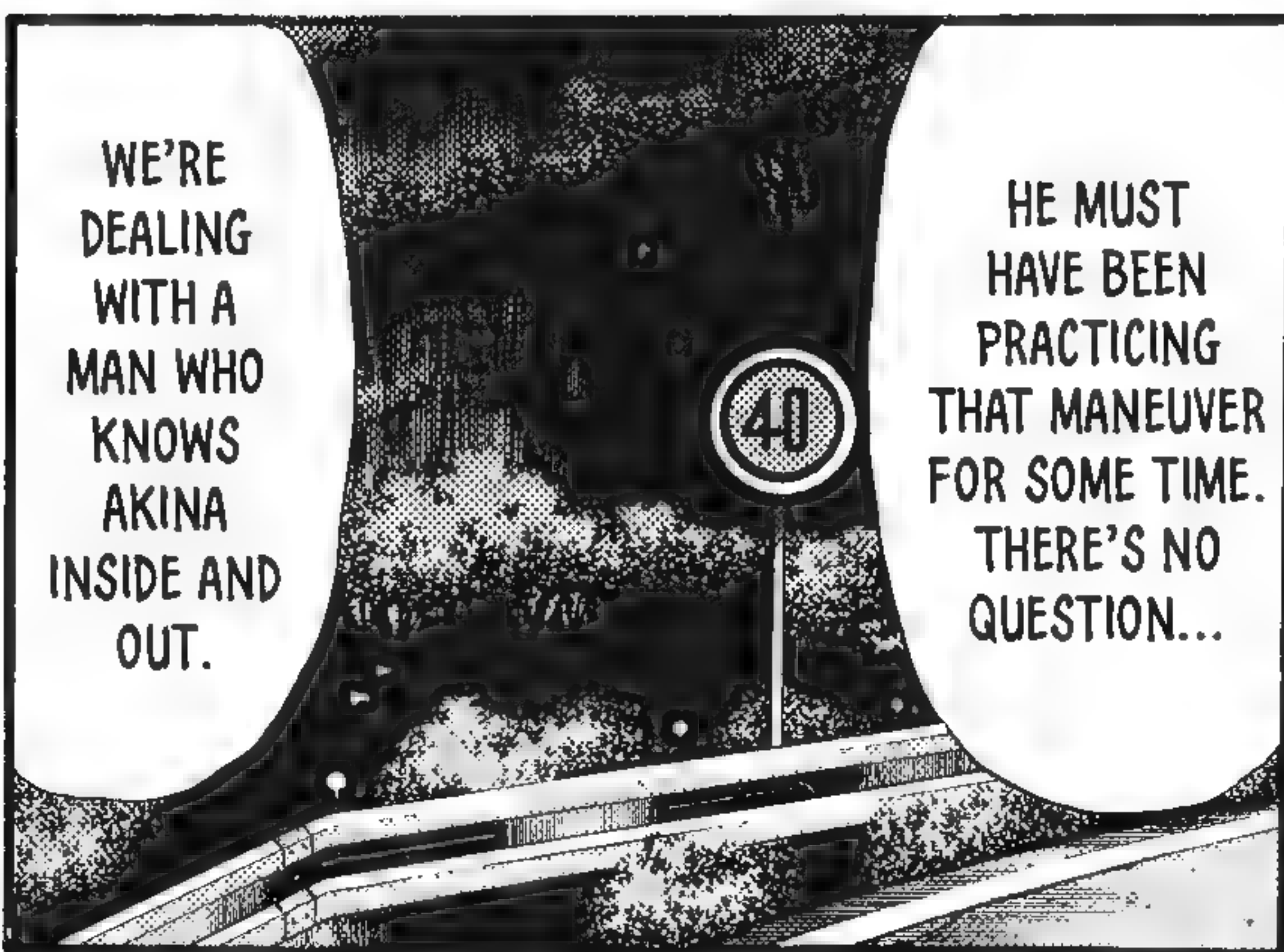


THE  
HELL...?

THEORETICALLY,  
THAT WOULD  
INDEED MAKE  
IT POSSIBLE TO  
OBTAIN MORE  
CORNERING  
FORCE THAN THE  
ACTUAL GRIP OF  
THE TIRES.

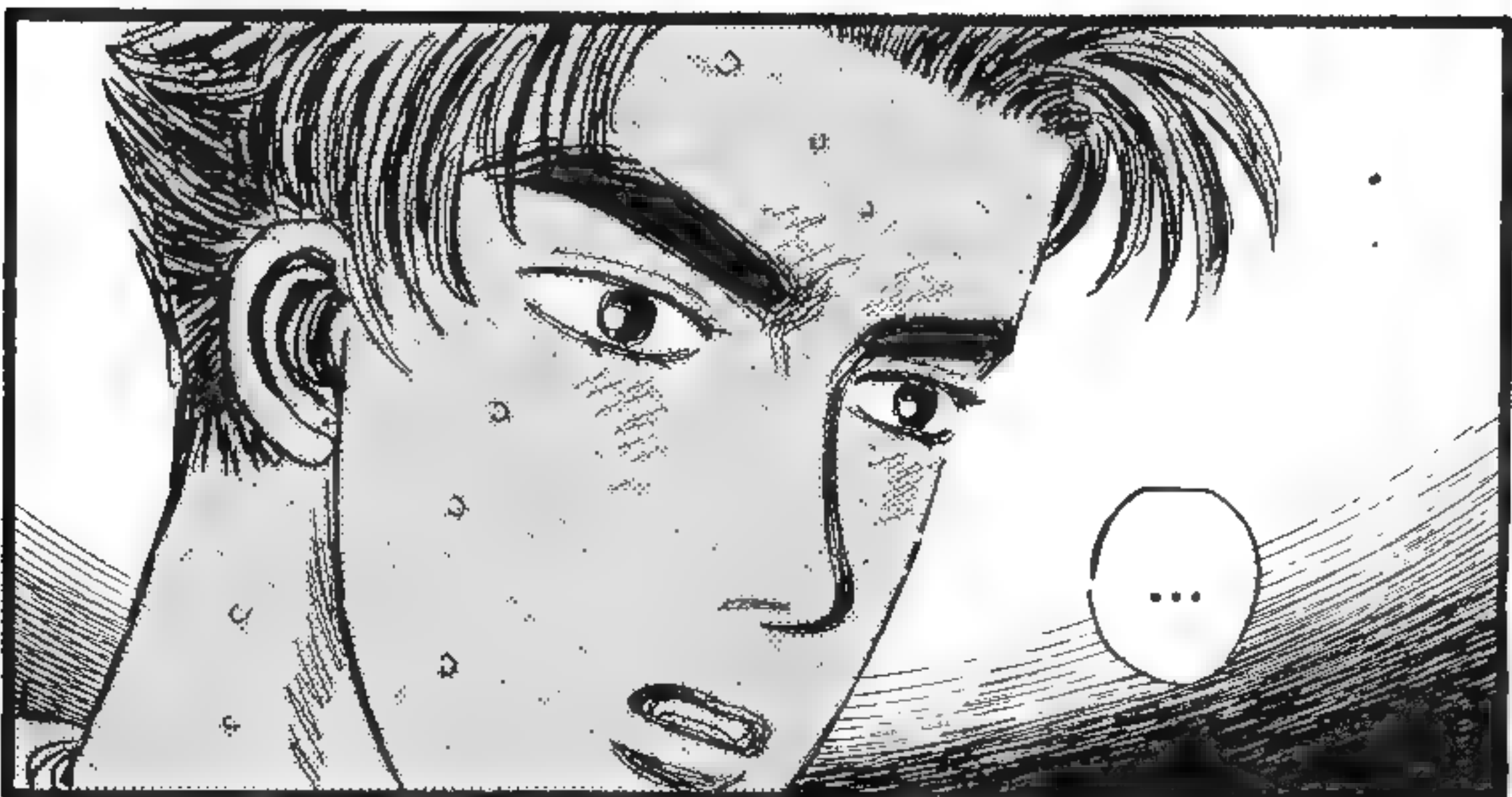


HE  
DELIBERATELY  
DIPPED HIS INSIDE  
TIRES IN THE  
DRAINAGE DITCH  
IN ORDER TO HELP  
HIM RESIST THE  
CENTRIFUGAL  
FORCE.



WE'RE  
DEALING  
WITH A  
MAN WHO  
KNOWS  
AKINA  
INSIDE AND  
OUT.

HE MUST  
HAVE BEEN  
PRACTICING  
THAT MANEUVER  
FOR SOME TIME.  
THERE'S NO  
QUESTION...



...



BUT  
IT'S ALSO NOT  
SOMETHING  
YOU COULD  
DO ON THE  
SPUR OF THE  
MOMENT.  
IT WOULD  
BE FAR TOO  
DANGEROUS.

IT'S  
A SIMPLE  
IDEA.  
FRANKLY,  
NOT  
A VERY  
SMART  
ONE.



I THINK  
I'VE FINALLY  
FOUND  
A TARGET  
WORTHY OF  
MY *FULL*  
ATTENTION.

IT'S  
SURPRISES  
LIKE THIS  
THAT MAKE  
RACING THESE  
MOUNTAIN  
PASSES SO  
ENGROSSING.

I'LL DEAL  
WITH THAT  
EIGHT-SIX  
MYSELF!

I'M  
POSTPONING  
OUR PLANNED  
EXPEDITION TO  
MOUNT MYOGI.  
WE'RE NOT GOING  
ANYWHERE UNTIL  
WE CRUSH AKINA  
UNDERFOOT.

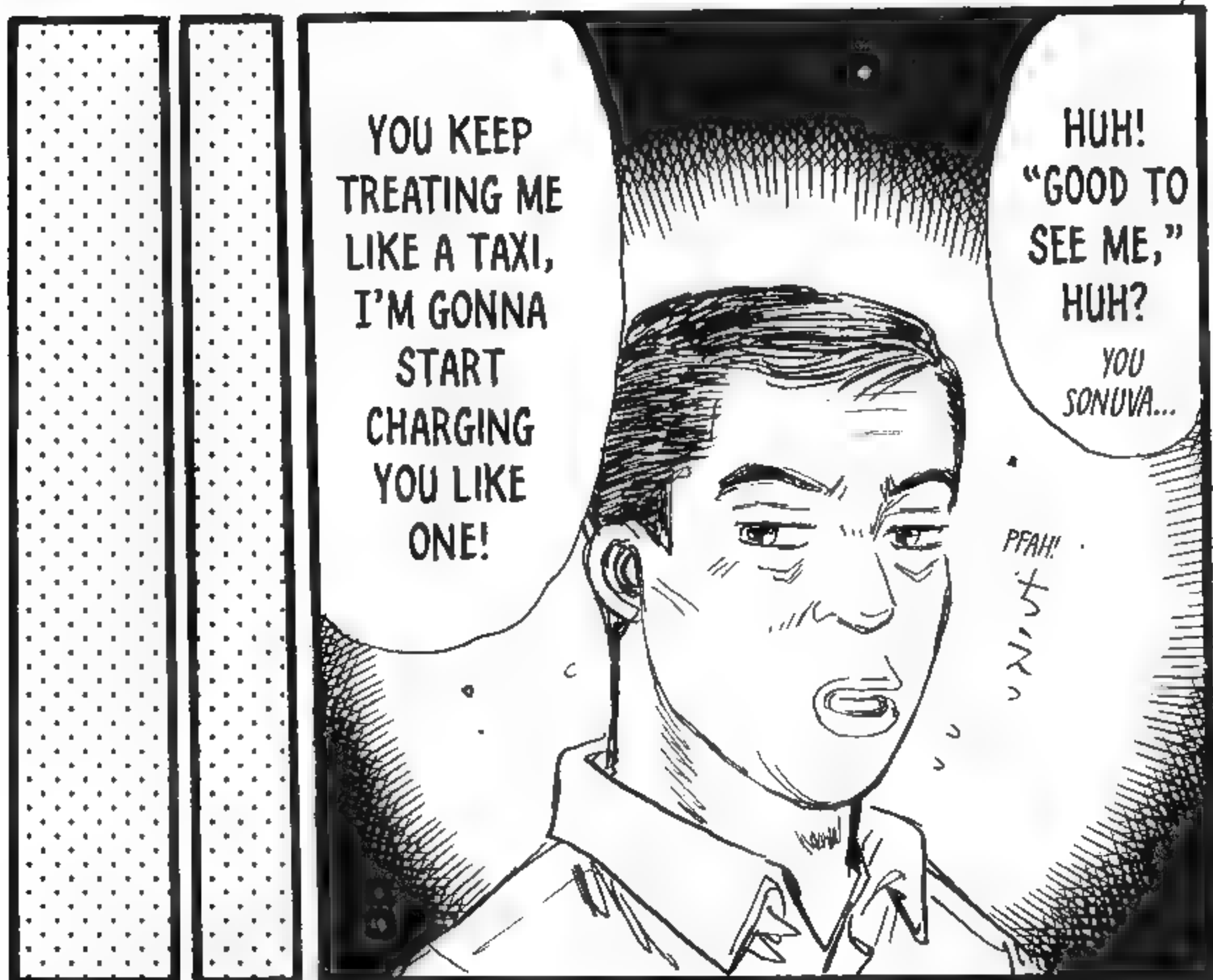
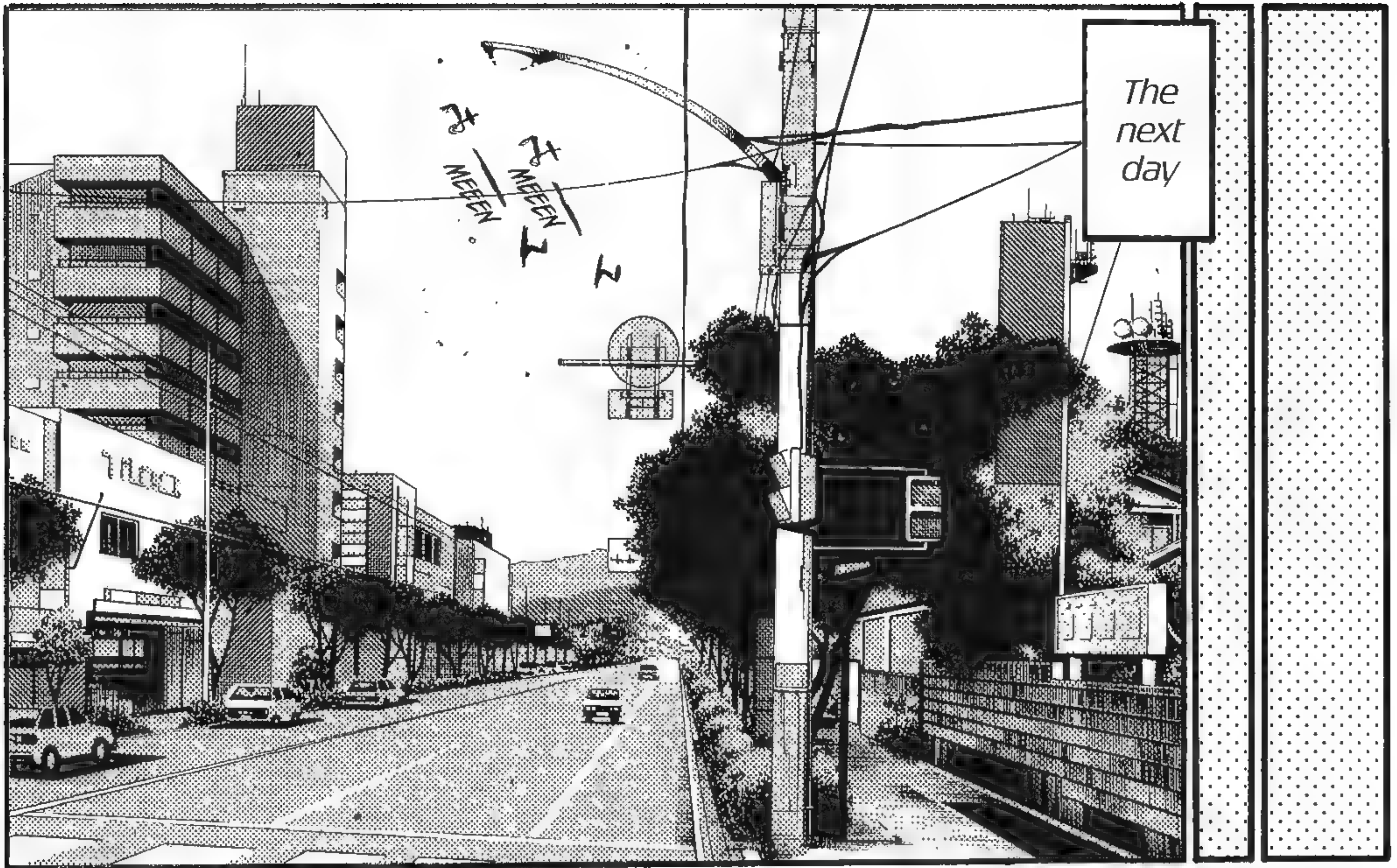
**BMK!!**

**BMK!!**

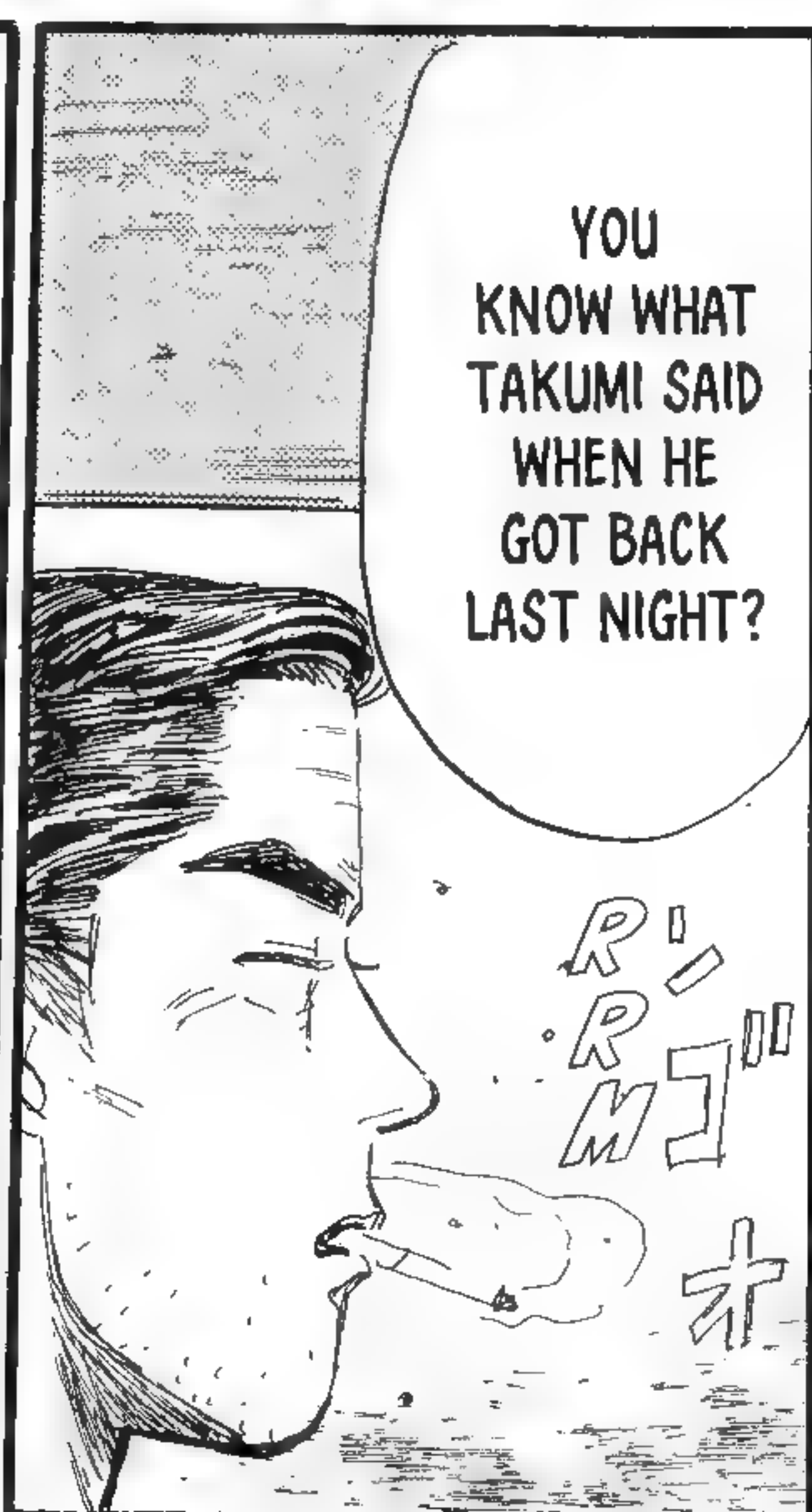
**BMK!!**

**BMK!!**

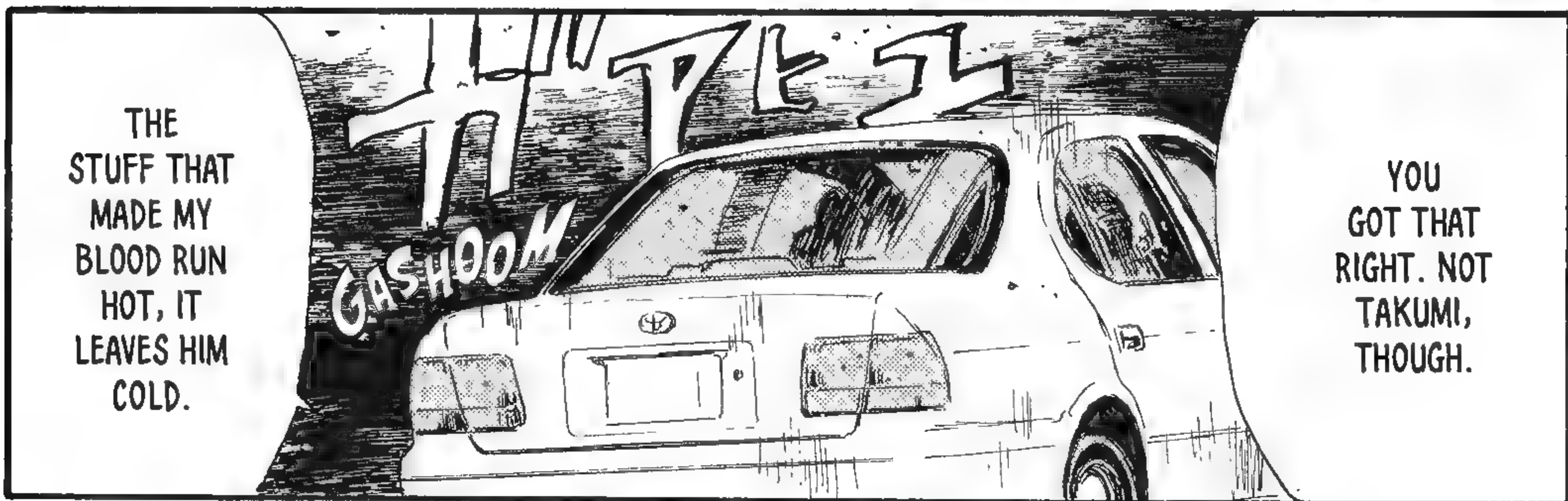
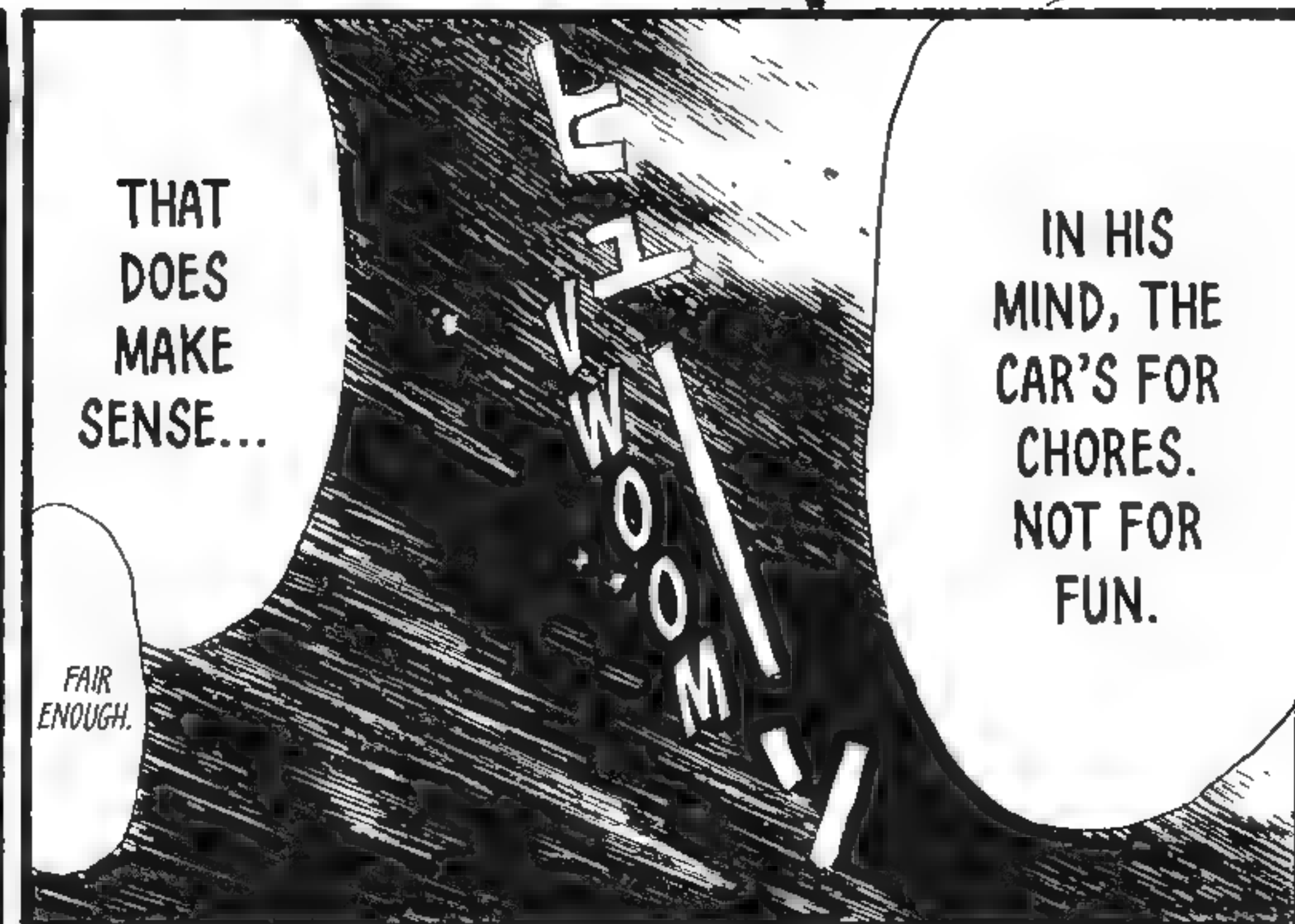
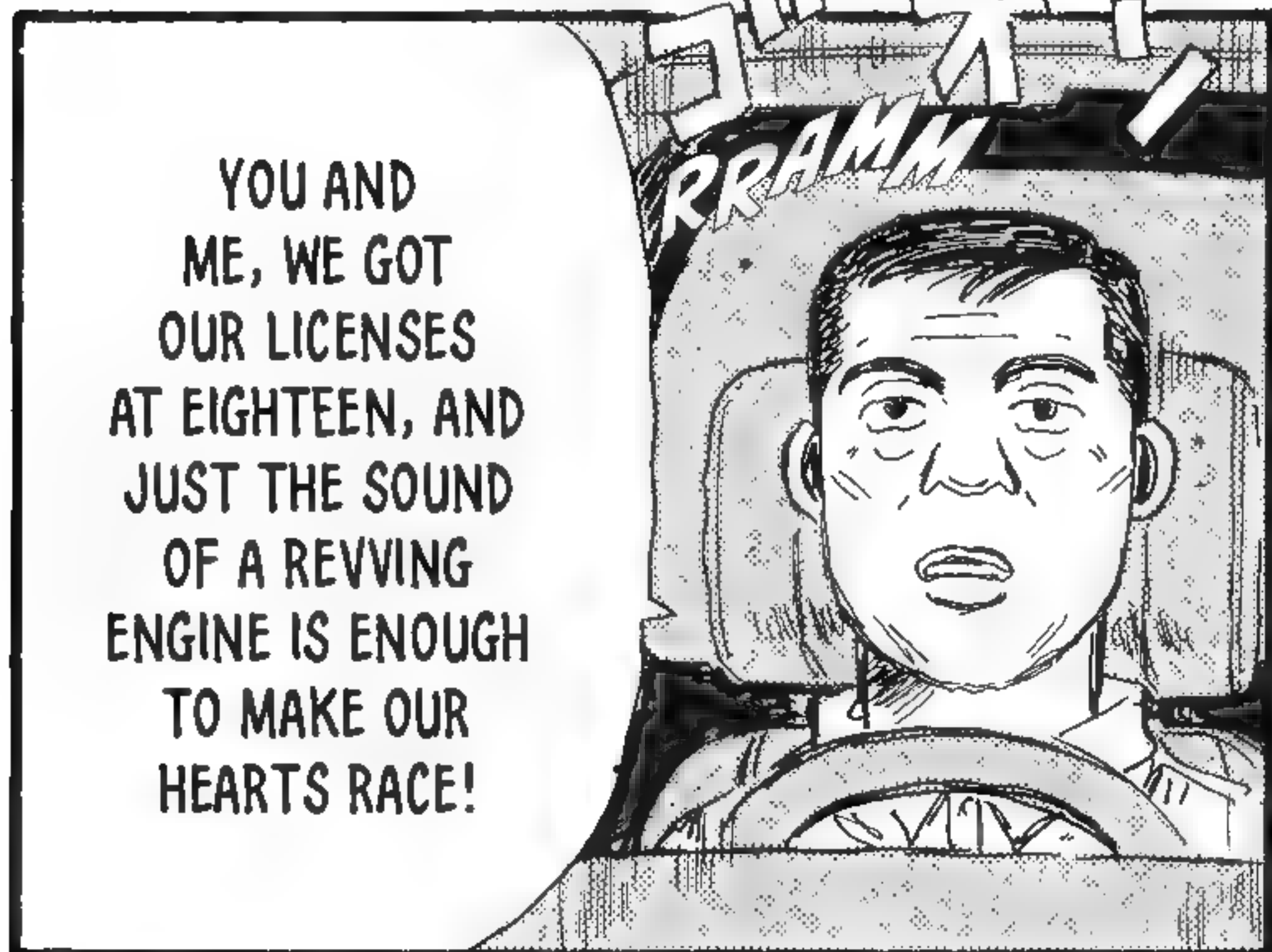
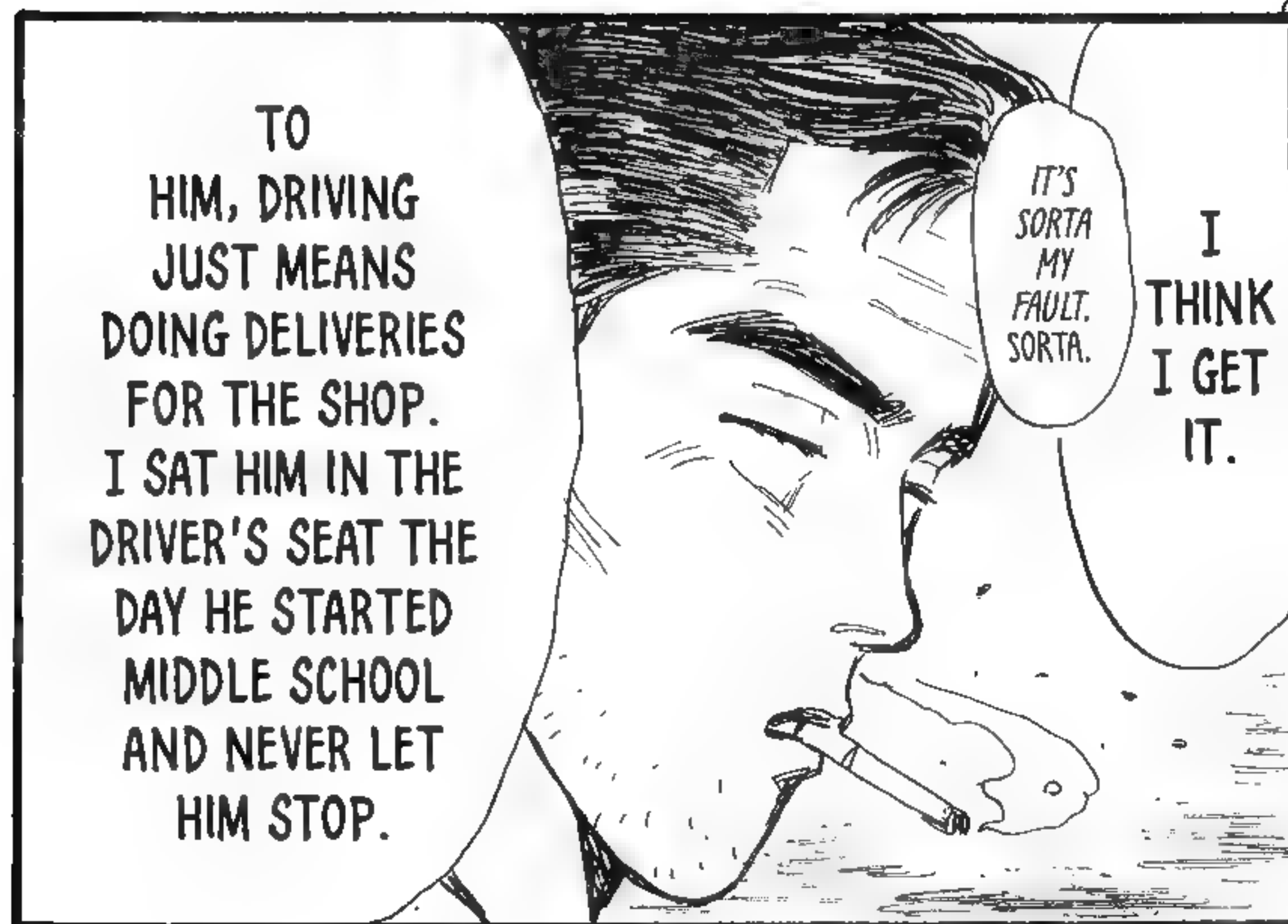


















FST  
SHH

SHH

EK! IT'S  
CHILLY!  
♡

I MEAN,  
THAT YOU  
WERE SUCH  
A GOOD  
DRIVER.

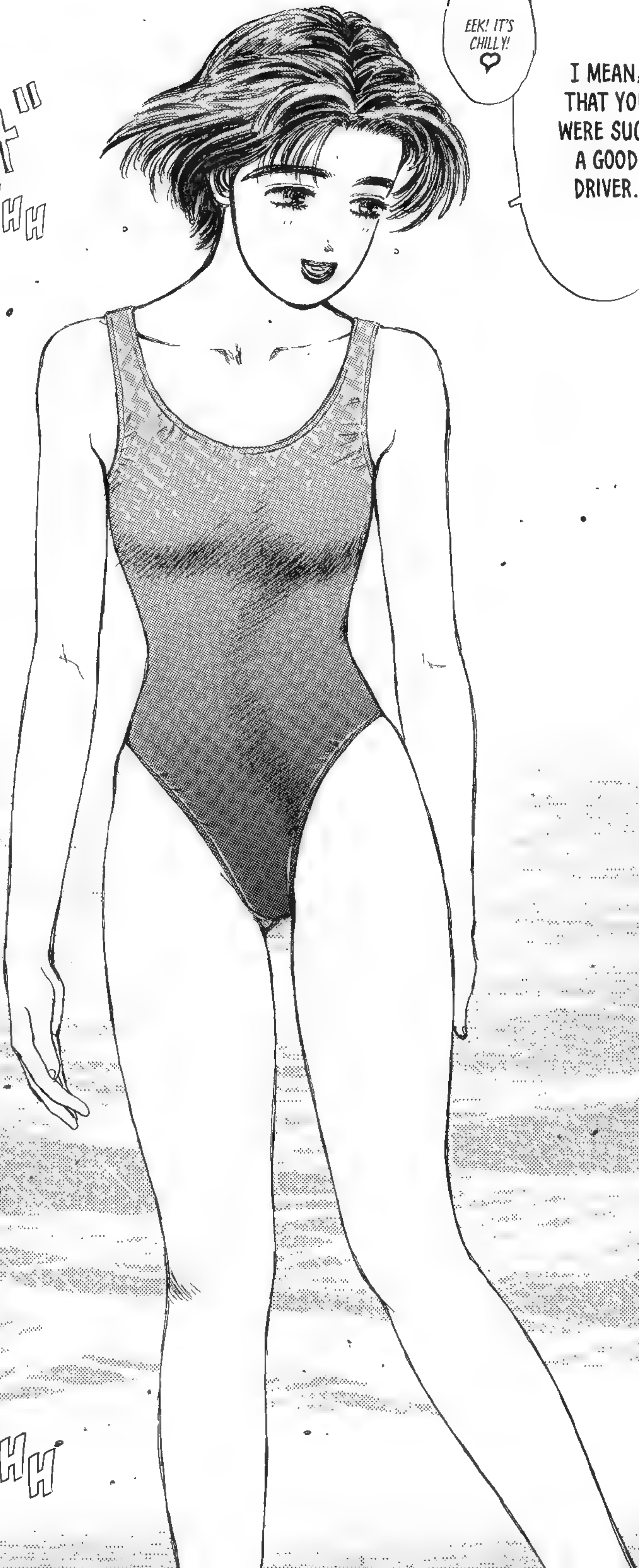
IT'S LIKE  
YOU'VE HAD  
A SECRET ALL  
THIS TIME.

SHH  
T

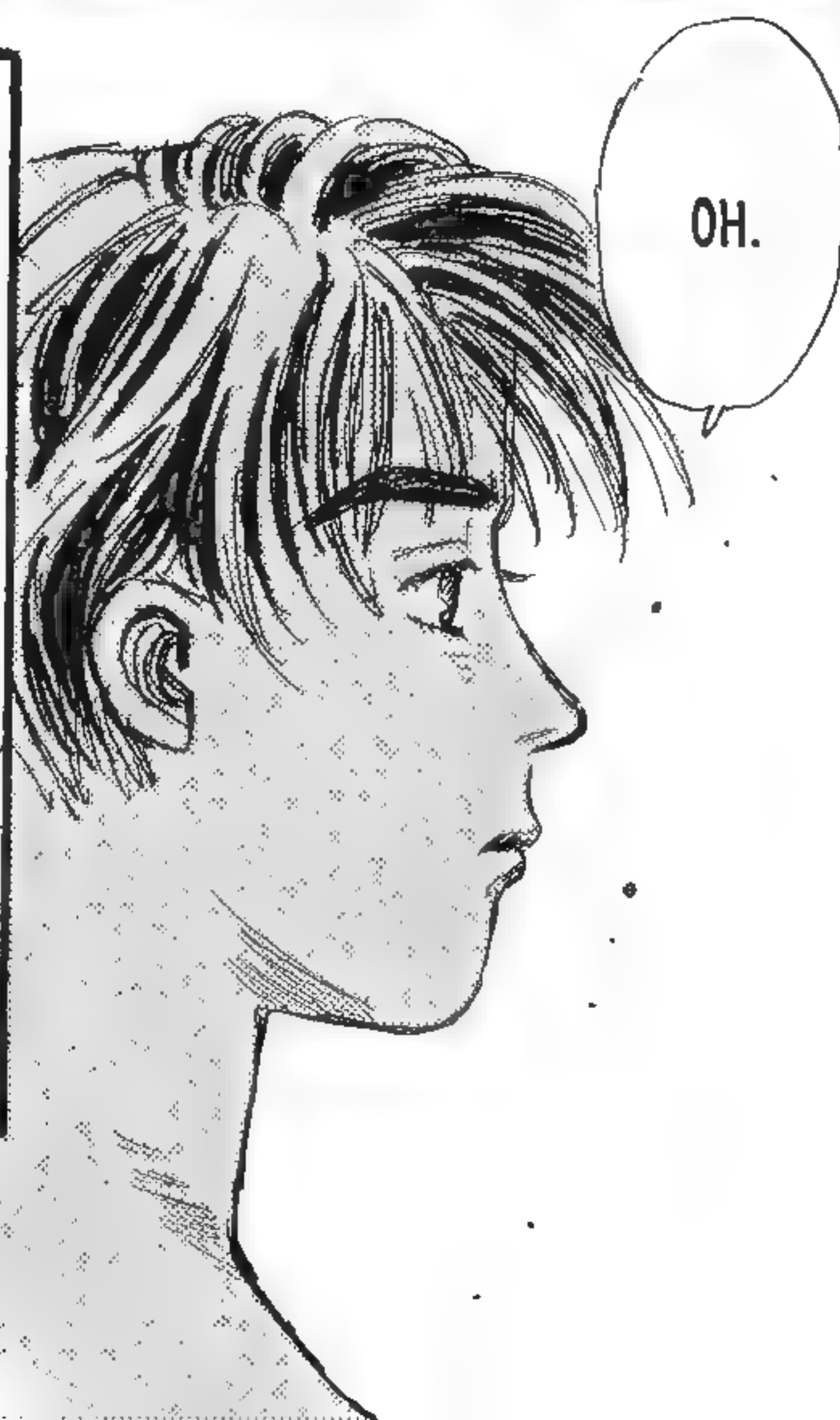
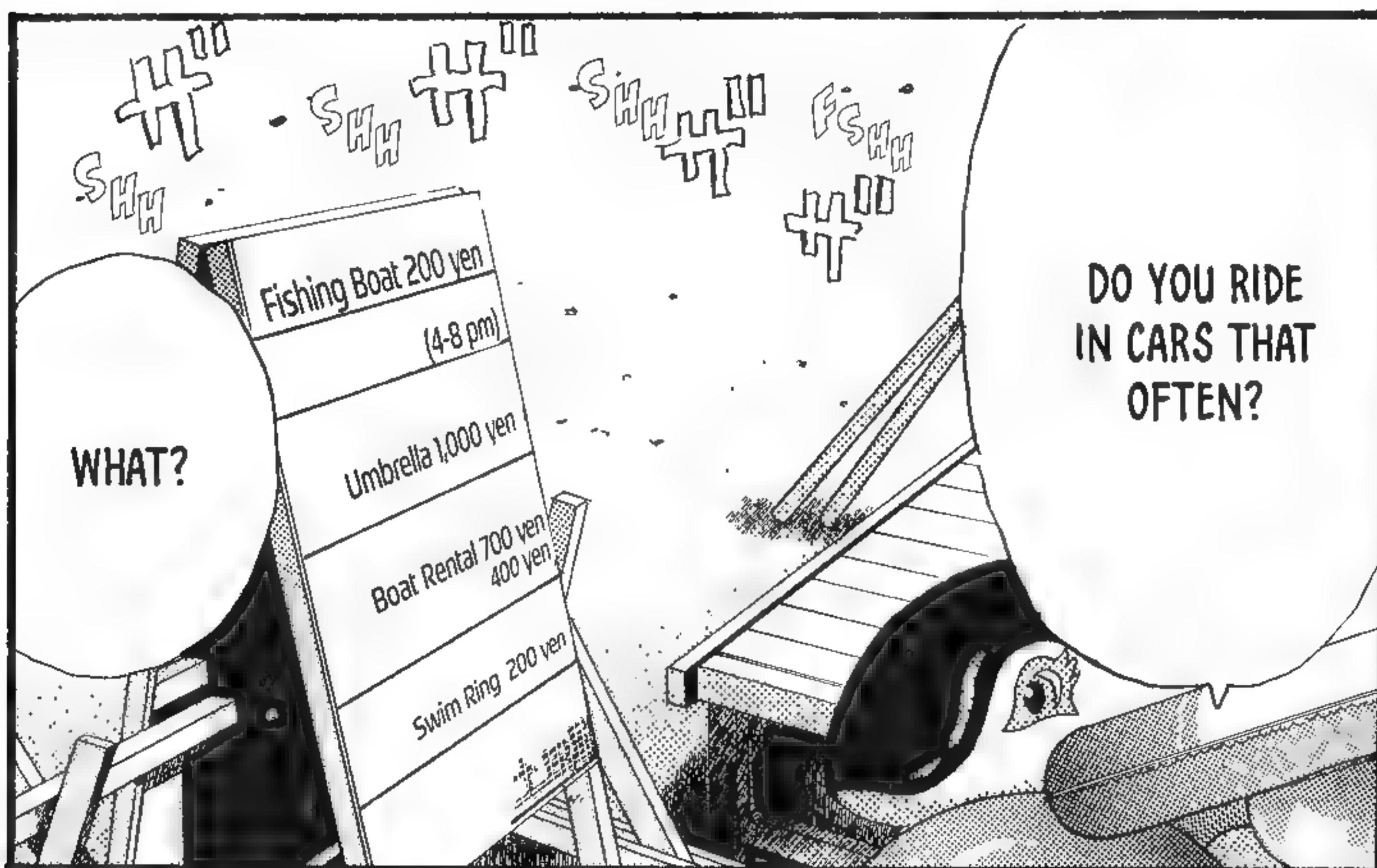
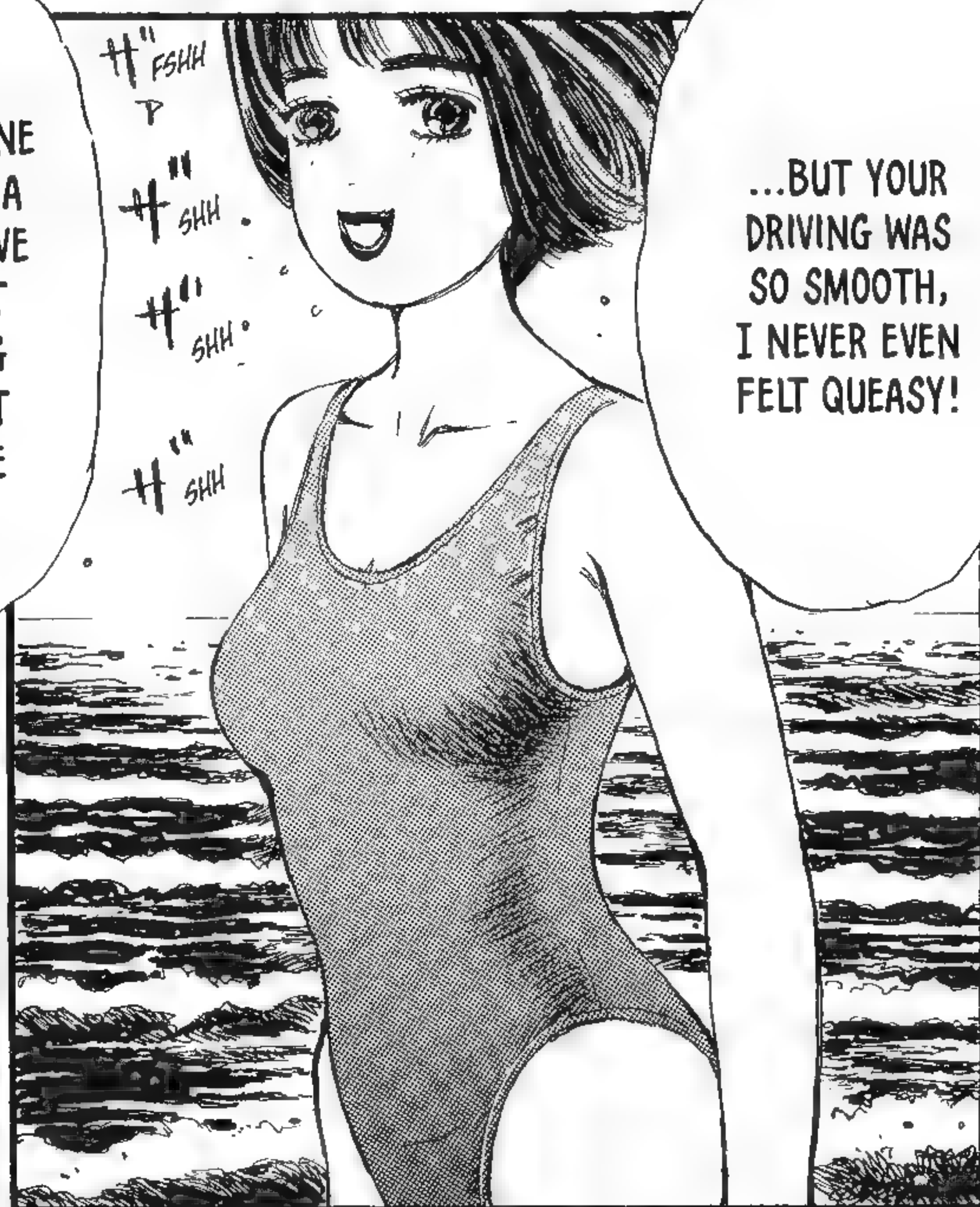
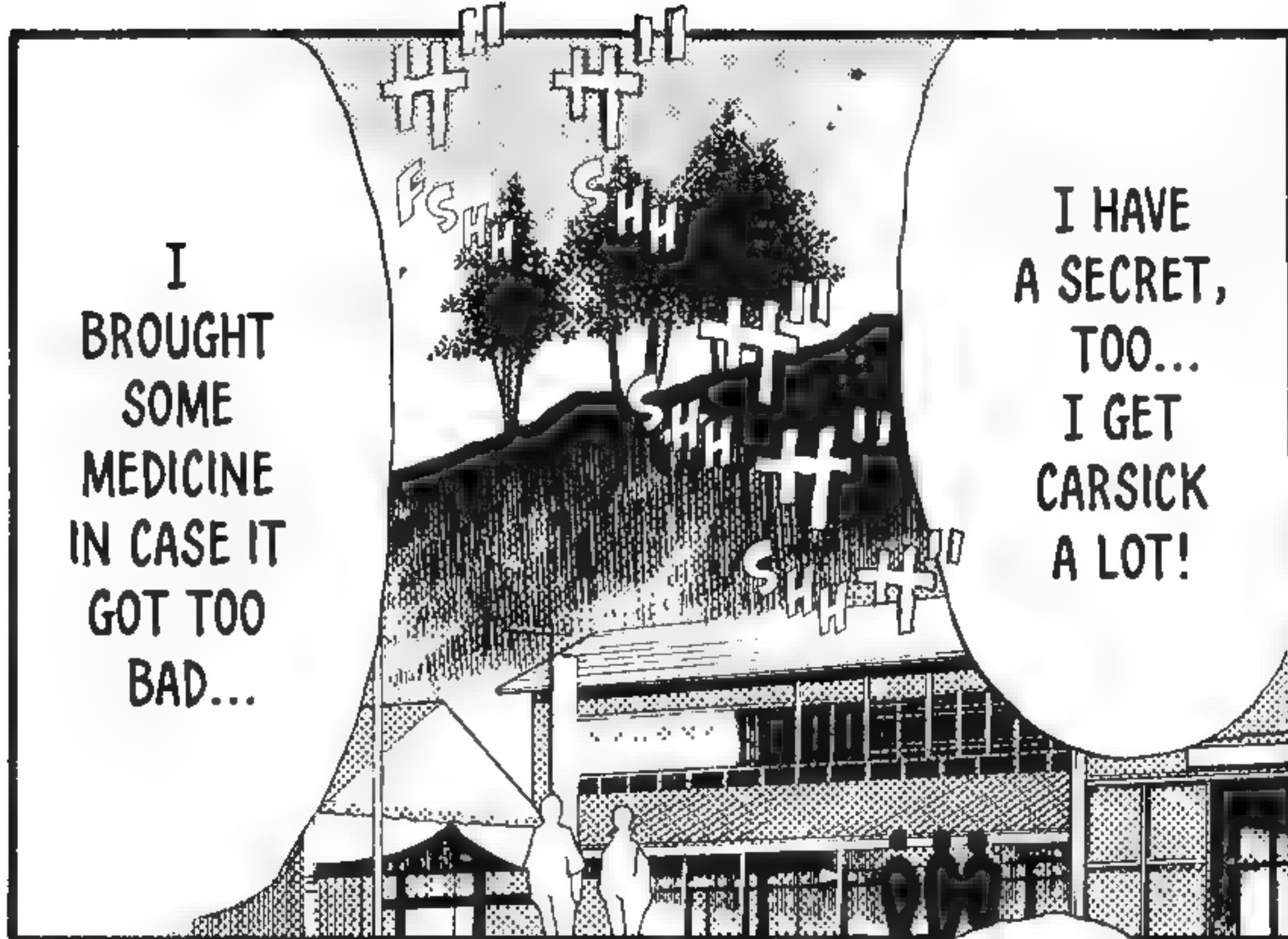
SHH

SHH

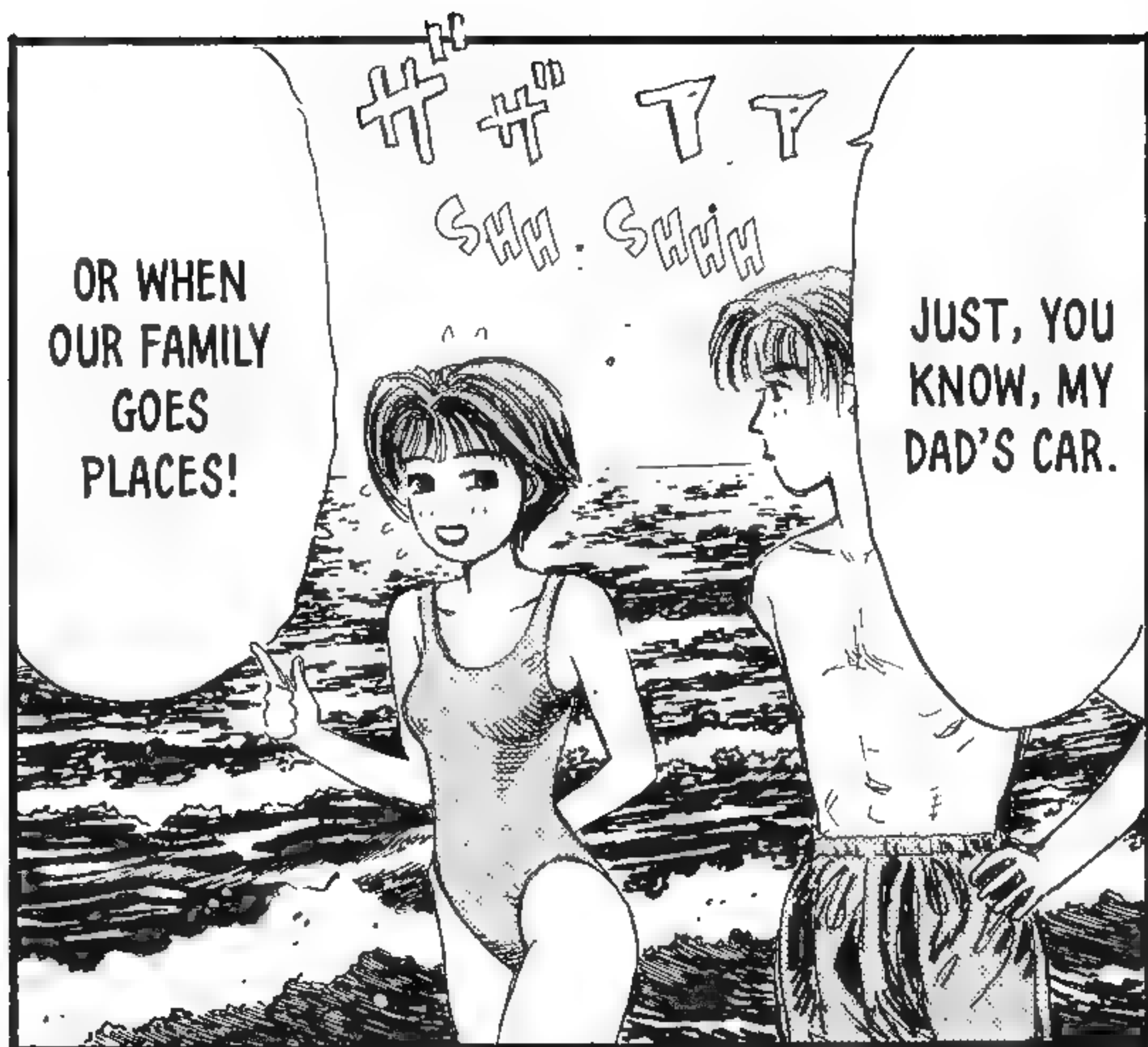
SHH





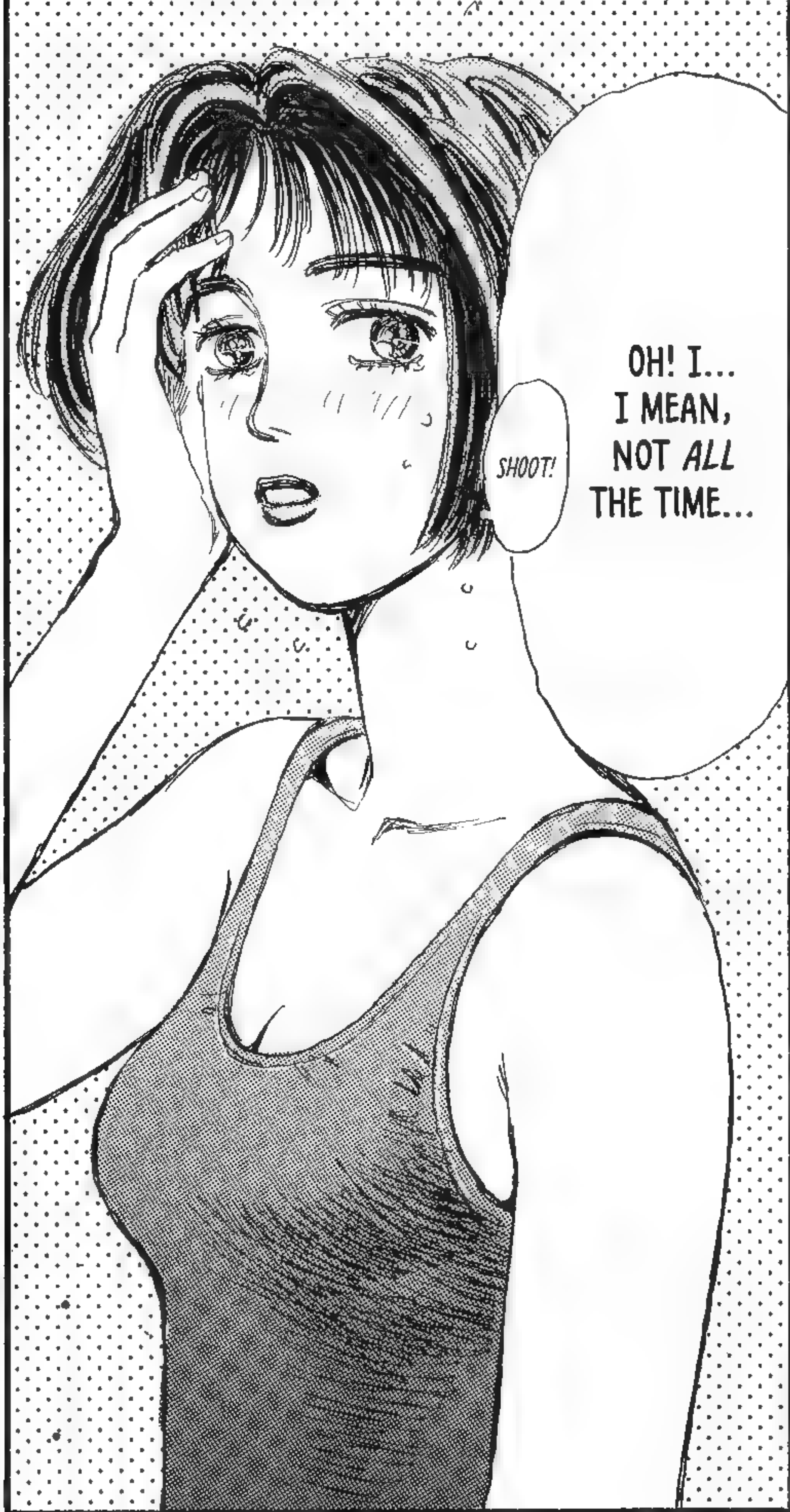






OR WHEN  
OUR FAMILY  
GOES  
PLACES!

JUST, YOU  
KNOW, MY  
DAD'S CAR.



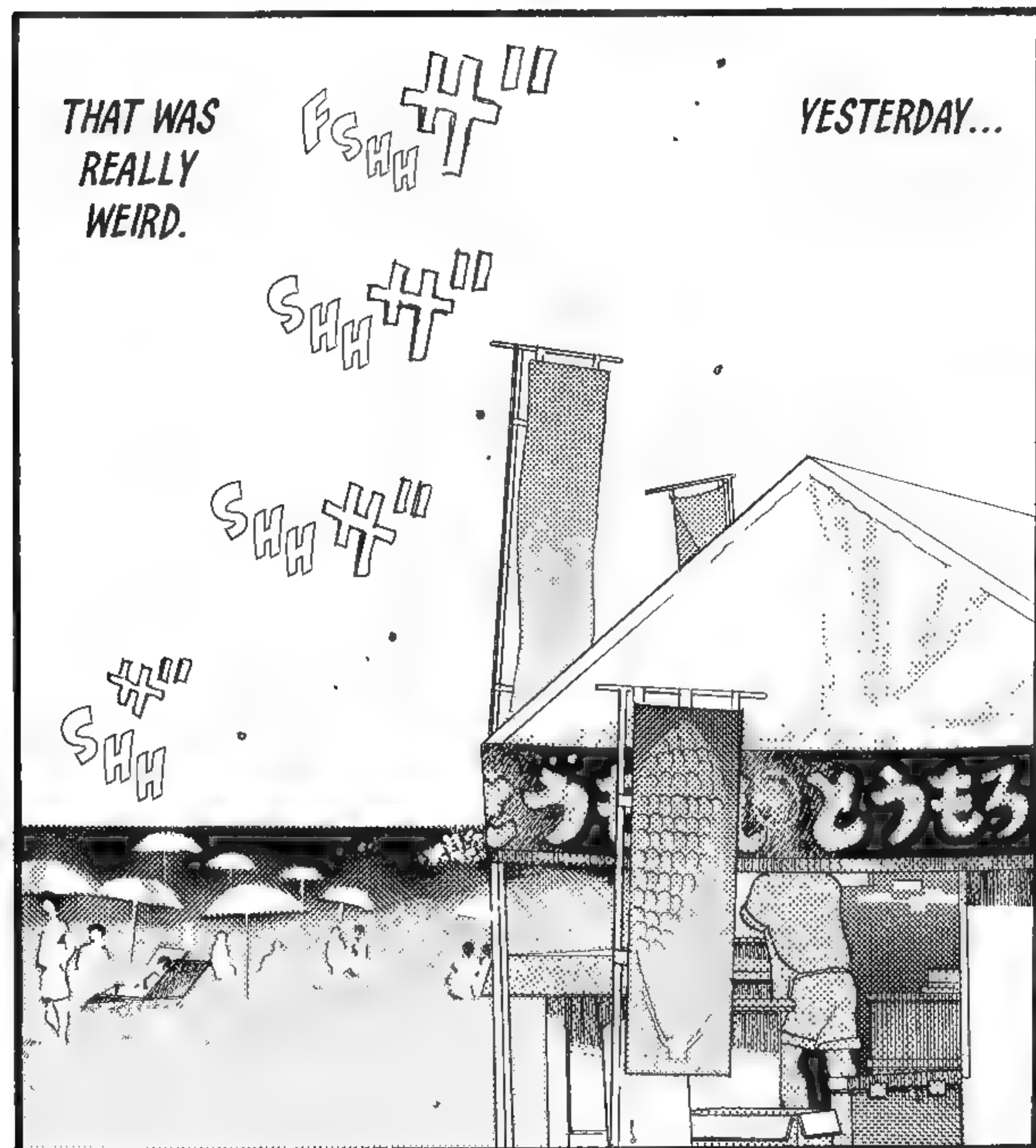
OH! I...  
I MEAN,  
NOT ALL  
THE TIME...



IT WAS  
A SIMPLE  
QUESTION,  
RIGHT?  
WHY'S SHE  
FREAKING  
OUT?

WEIRDO.

OH.  
OKAY...

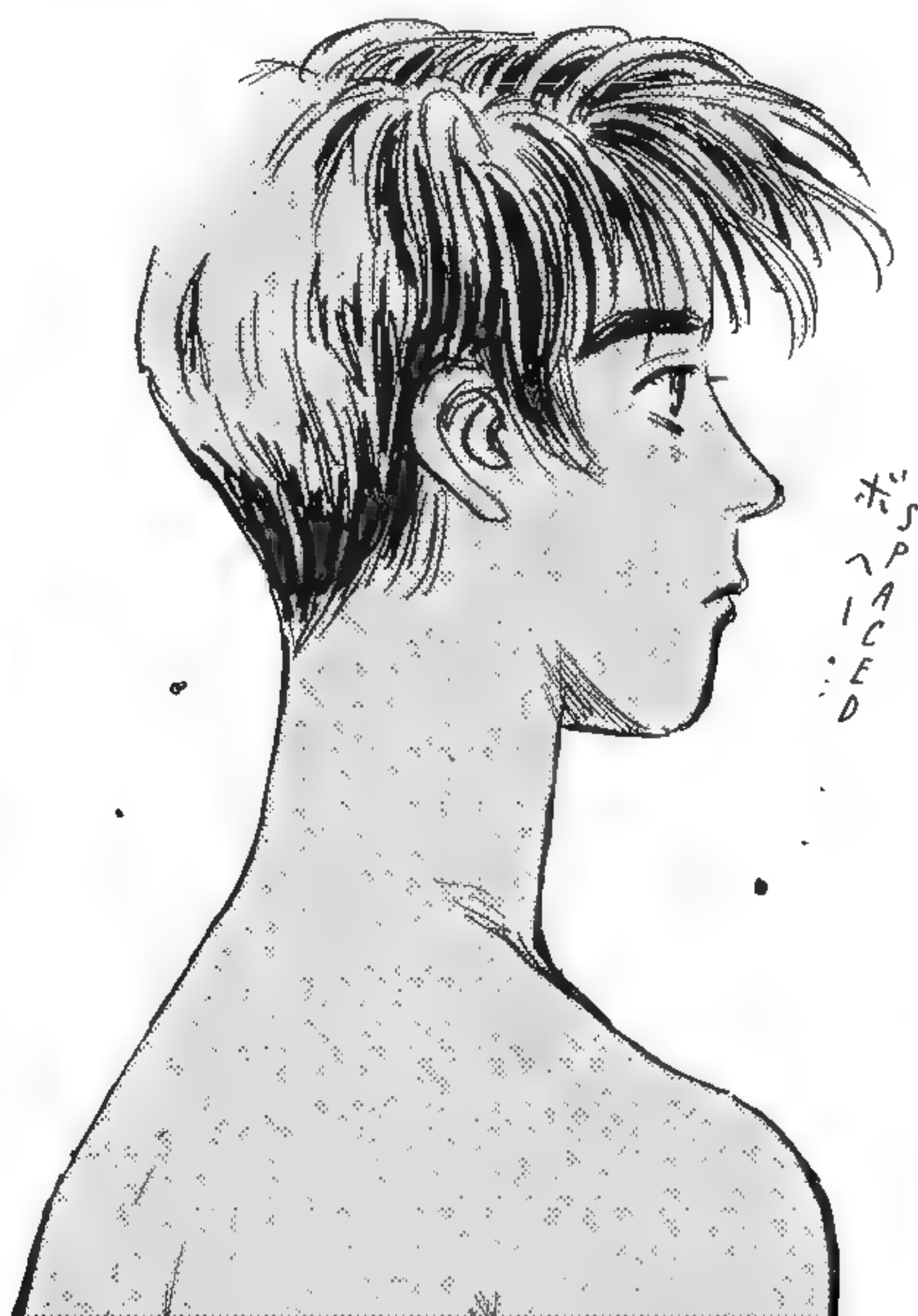


THAT WAS  
REALLY  
WEIRD.

YESTERDAY...

DRIVE LIKE  
I'M TRYING  
NOT TO SPILL  
THE WATER IN  
THE CUP.

I JUST  
DID WHAT  
I ALWAYS  
DO—

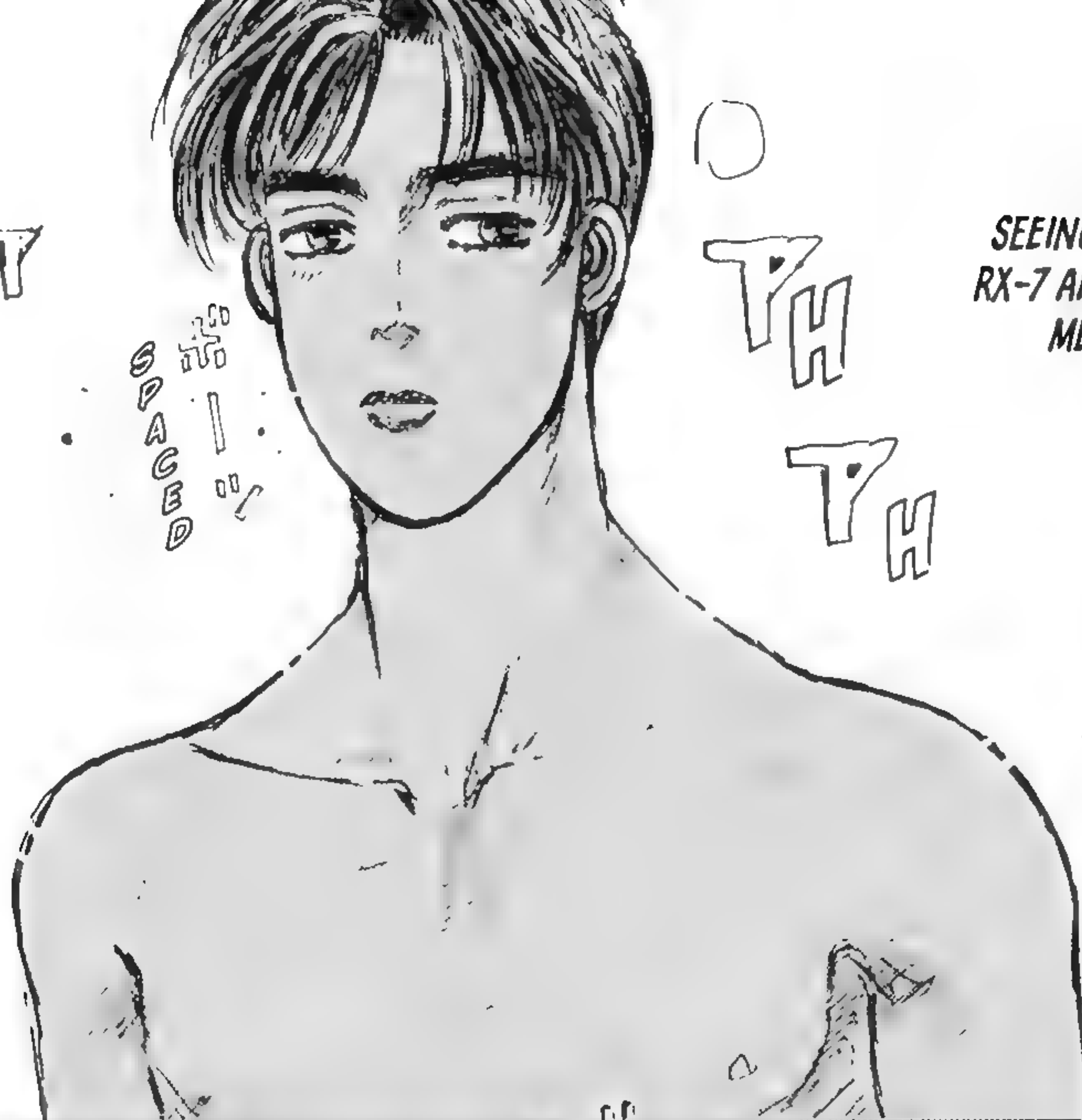


SPACED

Sign: Delicious Corn



WHEN I REALIZED  
I WAS GAINING ON  
HIM, IT MADE MY  
PULSE POUND. I  
WAS LOVING THE  
CHASE.



SEEING THAT  
RX-7 AHEAD OF  
ME...

BUT  
THEN, LIKE,  
DRIVING  
MOGI TO THE  
BEACH, THAT  
WAS LOADS  
OF FUN.



I'D NEVER  
THOUGHT  
OF DRIVING  
AS FUN  
BEFORE.

EARTH TO  
TAKUMI-  
KUN!



HEY!

...PRETTY  
AWESOME.

I  
GUESS  
CARS  
ARE...

-EY!

HUH?







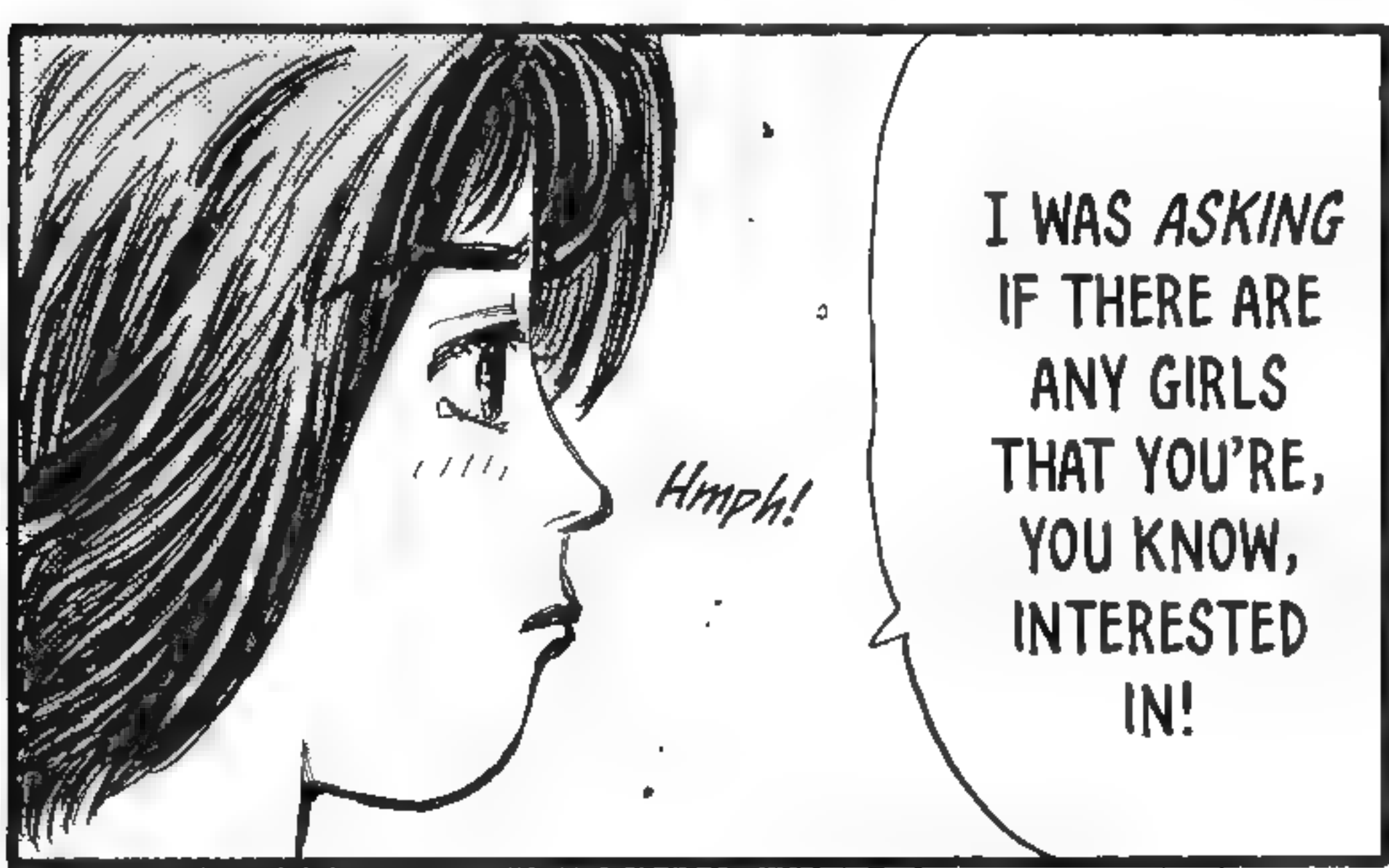
HOW COULD  
YOU JUST VANISH  
INTO YOUR OWN  
WORLD WITH A  
BEAUTIFUL YOUNG  
WOMAN STANDING  
RIGHT NEXT TO  
YOU?

I DON'T  
GET IT!



YOU WERE  
THINKING  
ABOUT  
SOMETHING...  
SOMETHING  
OTHER THAN  
ME!

I SAW YOU  
STARING  
INTO THE  
DISTANCE  
THERE.



Hmph!

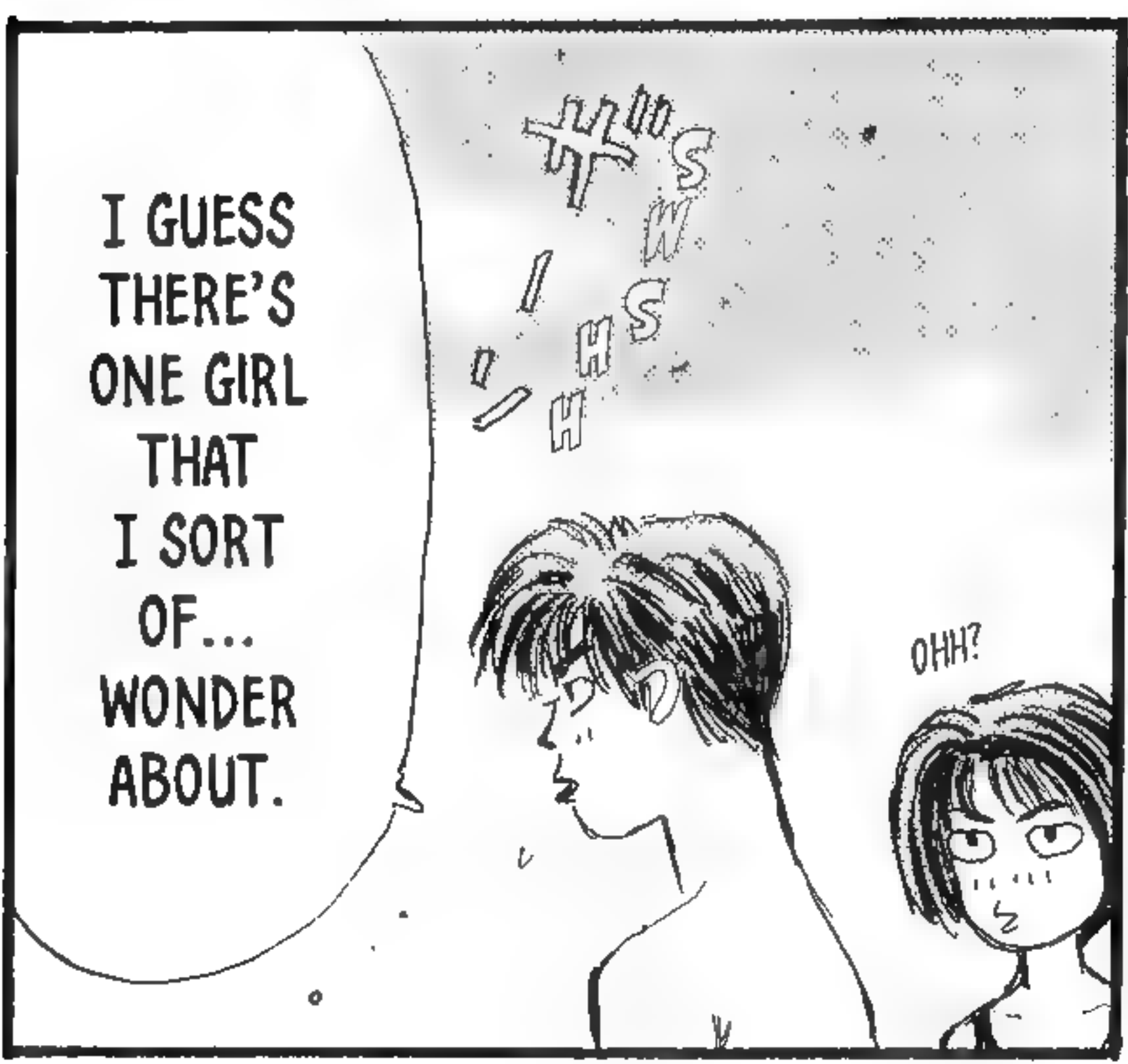
I WAS ASKING  
IF THERE ARE  
ANY GIRLS  
THAT YOU'RE,  
YOU KNOW,  
INTERESTED  
IN!



WHAT  
WERE YOU  
SAYING?

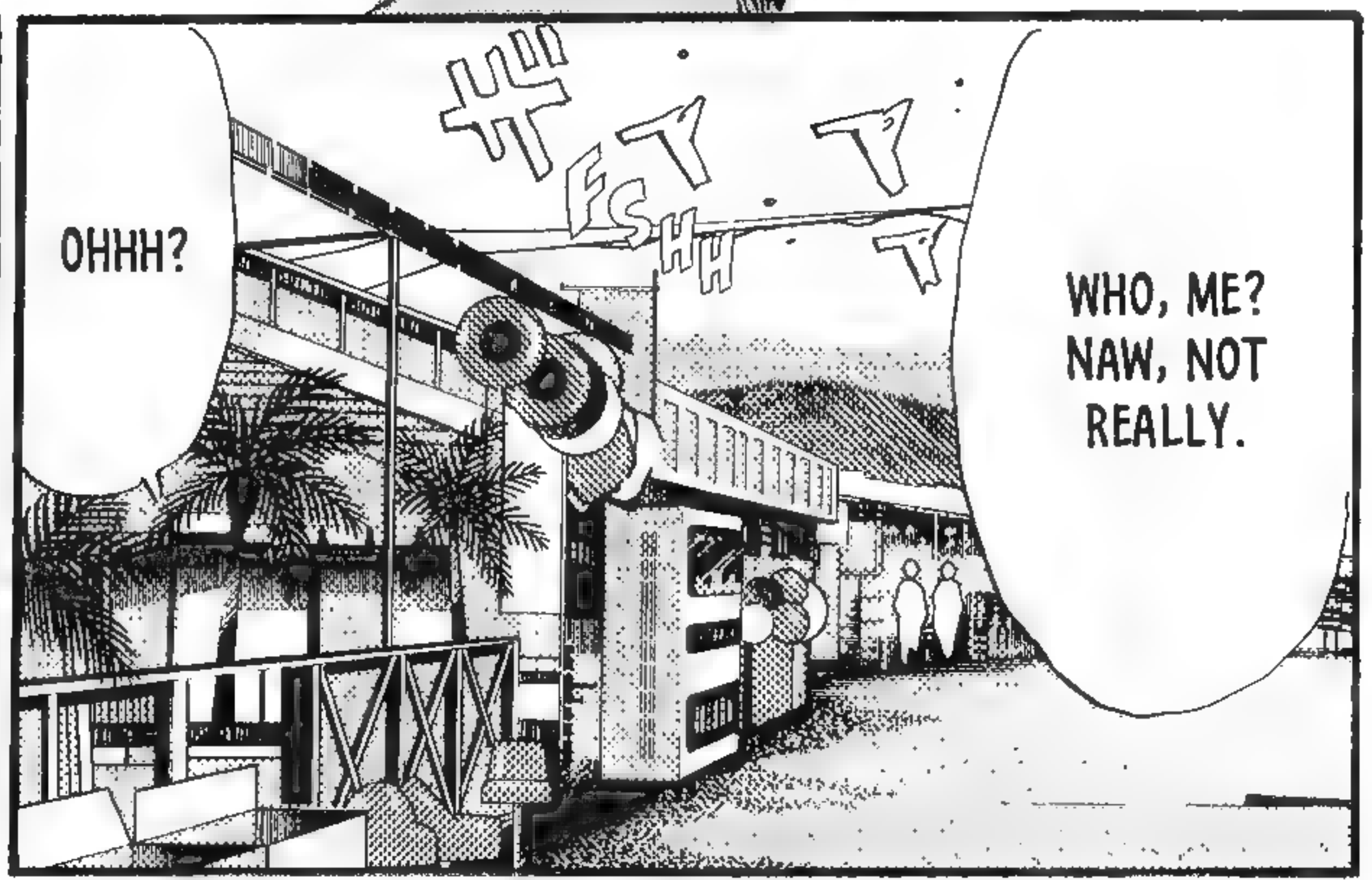
SHOOT,  
I'M  
SORRY.

CRAP!



I GUESS  
THERE'S  
ONE GIRL  
THAT  
I SORT  
OF...  
WONDER  
ABOUT.

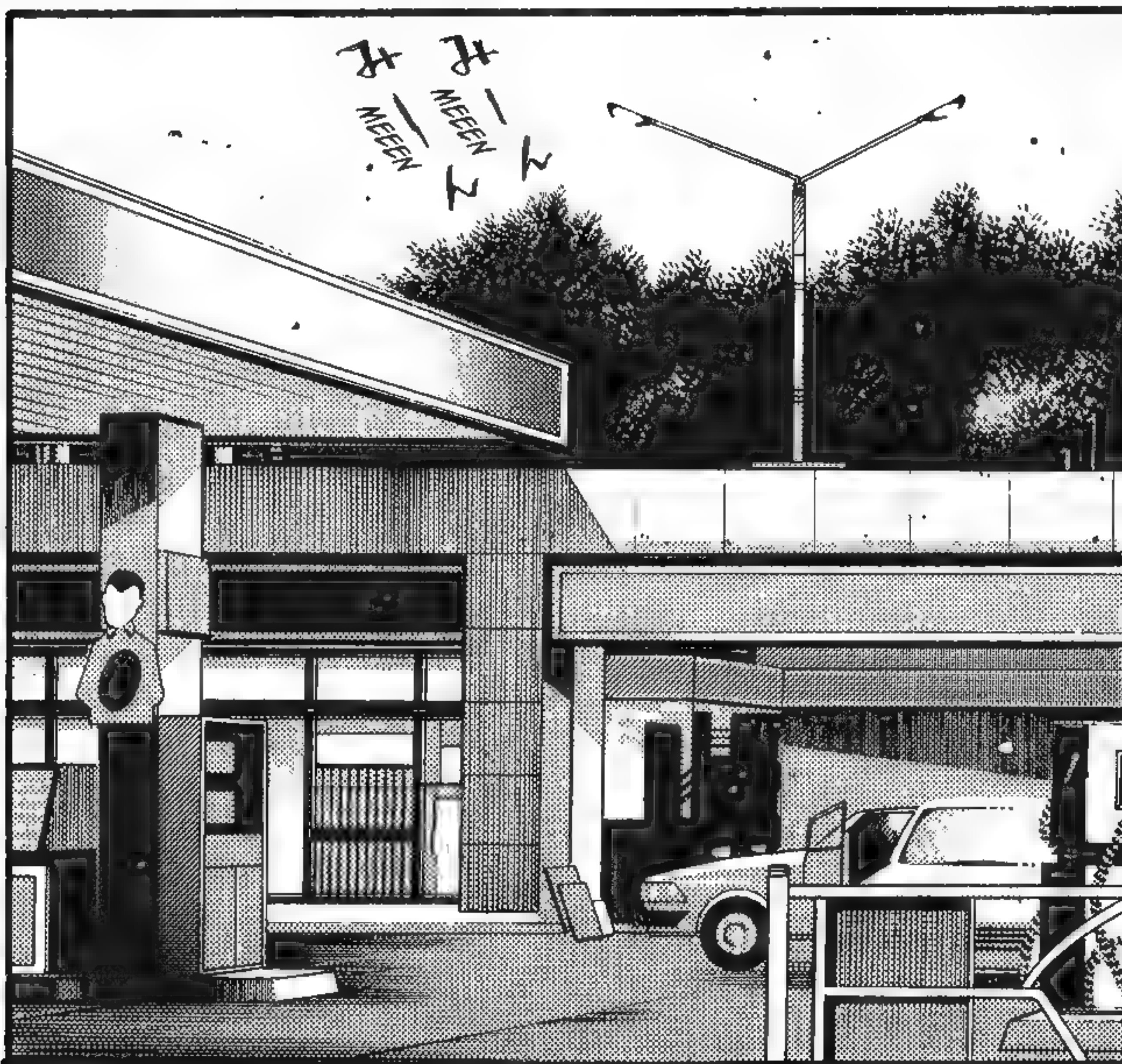
OH?



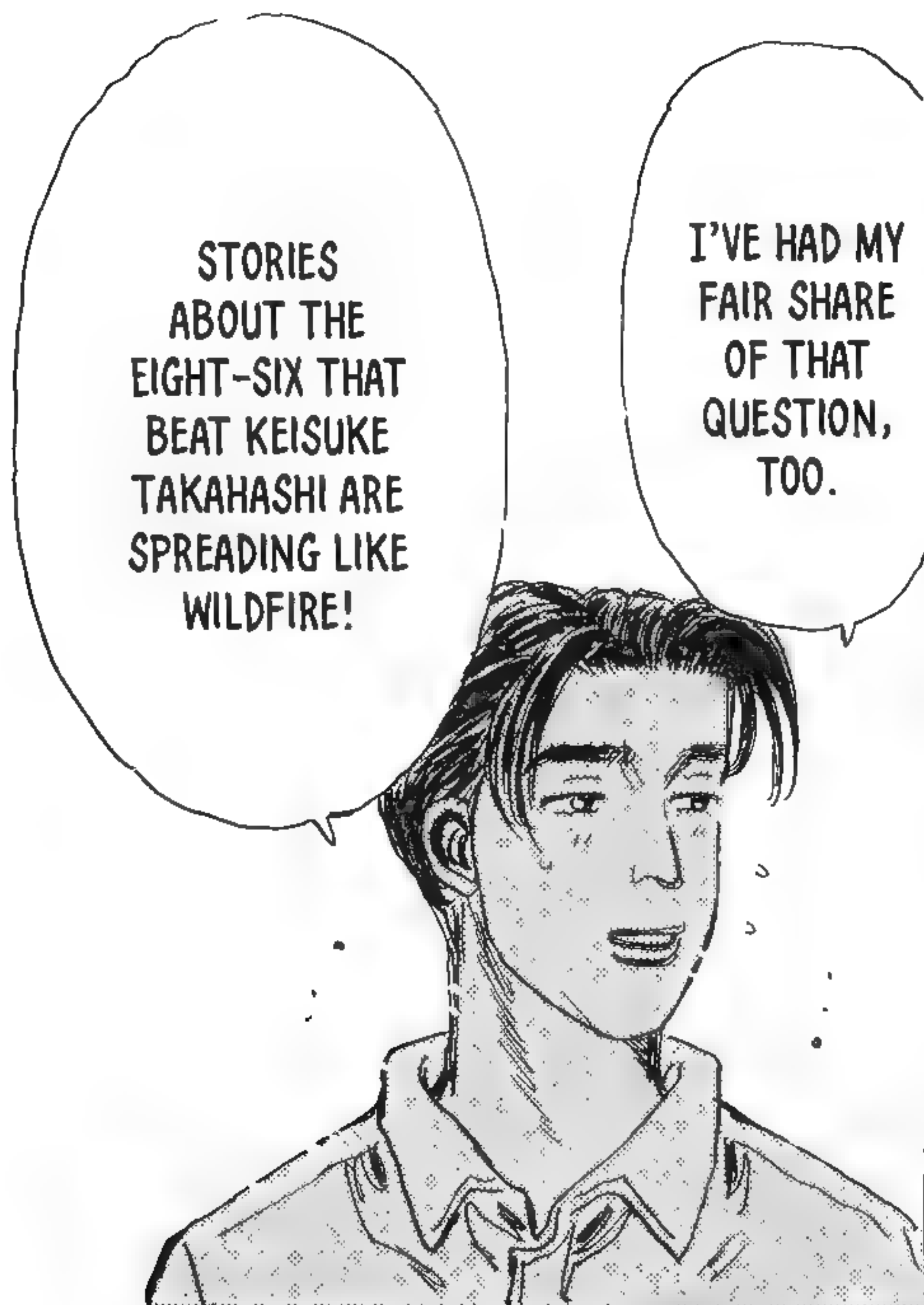
OH??

WHO, ME?  
NAW, NOT  
REALLY.









STORIES ABOUT THE EIGHT-SIX THAT BEAT KEISUKE TAKAHASHI ARE SPREADING LIKE WILDFIRE!

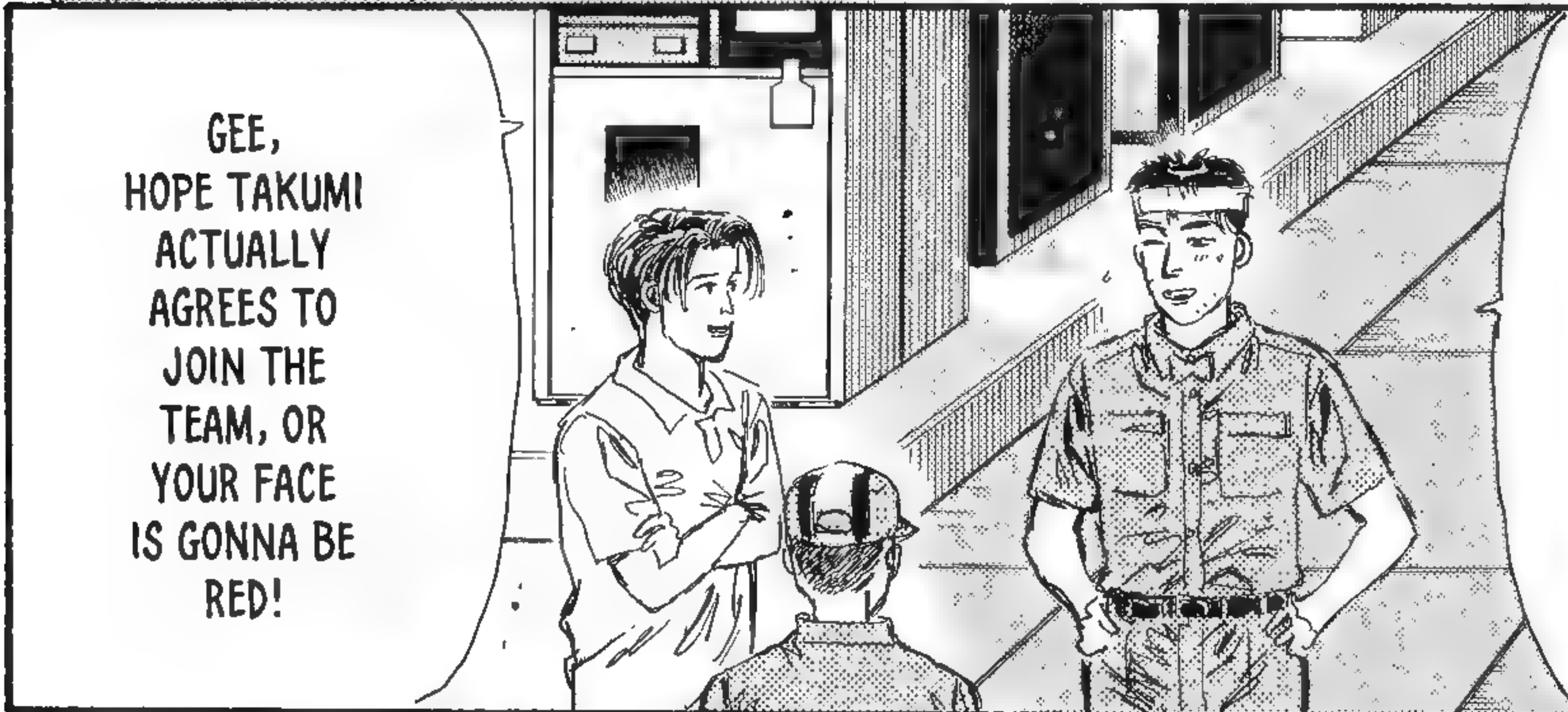
I'VE HAD MY FAIR SHARE OF THAT QUESTION, TOO.

I'VE LOST COUNT OF HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE ASKED ME JUST THIS MORNING!



HAH! EVERYONE'S GOT THE SAME QUESTION: WHERE THE HELL'D THAT EIGHT-SIX COME FROM?

Nyah ha ha!



GEE, HOPE TAKUMI ACTUALLY AGREES TO JOIN THE TEAM, OR YOUR FACE IS GONNA BE RED!

MAYBE I'M GETTING A LITTLE AHEAD OF MYSELF... BUT I'VE BEEN TELLING EVERYONE THAT CAR WAS THE SPEED STARS' SECRET WEAPON!



PLEASE! WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE GRADE SCHOOL! WHICH MEANS I ALSO KNOW HOW TO BLACKMAIL HIM IF I HAVE TO!

HEH HEH HEH!

I DUNNO, ITSUKI. CAN I TRUST YOU ON THAT?

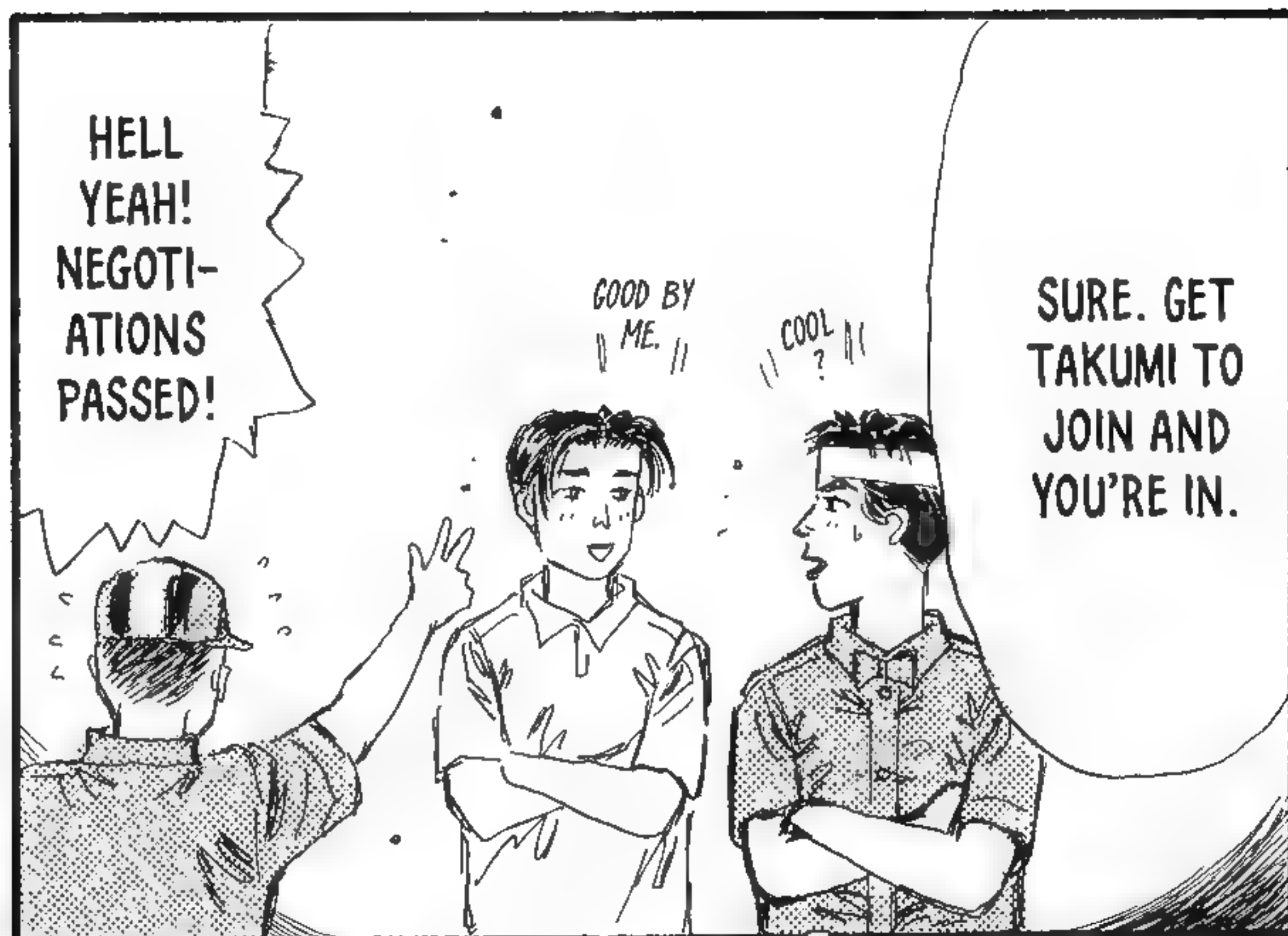


TAKUMI AND I ARE AS THICK AS THIEVES! HE'LL DO ANYTHING I SAY!

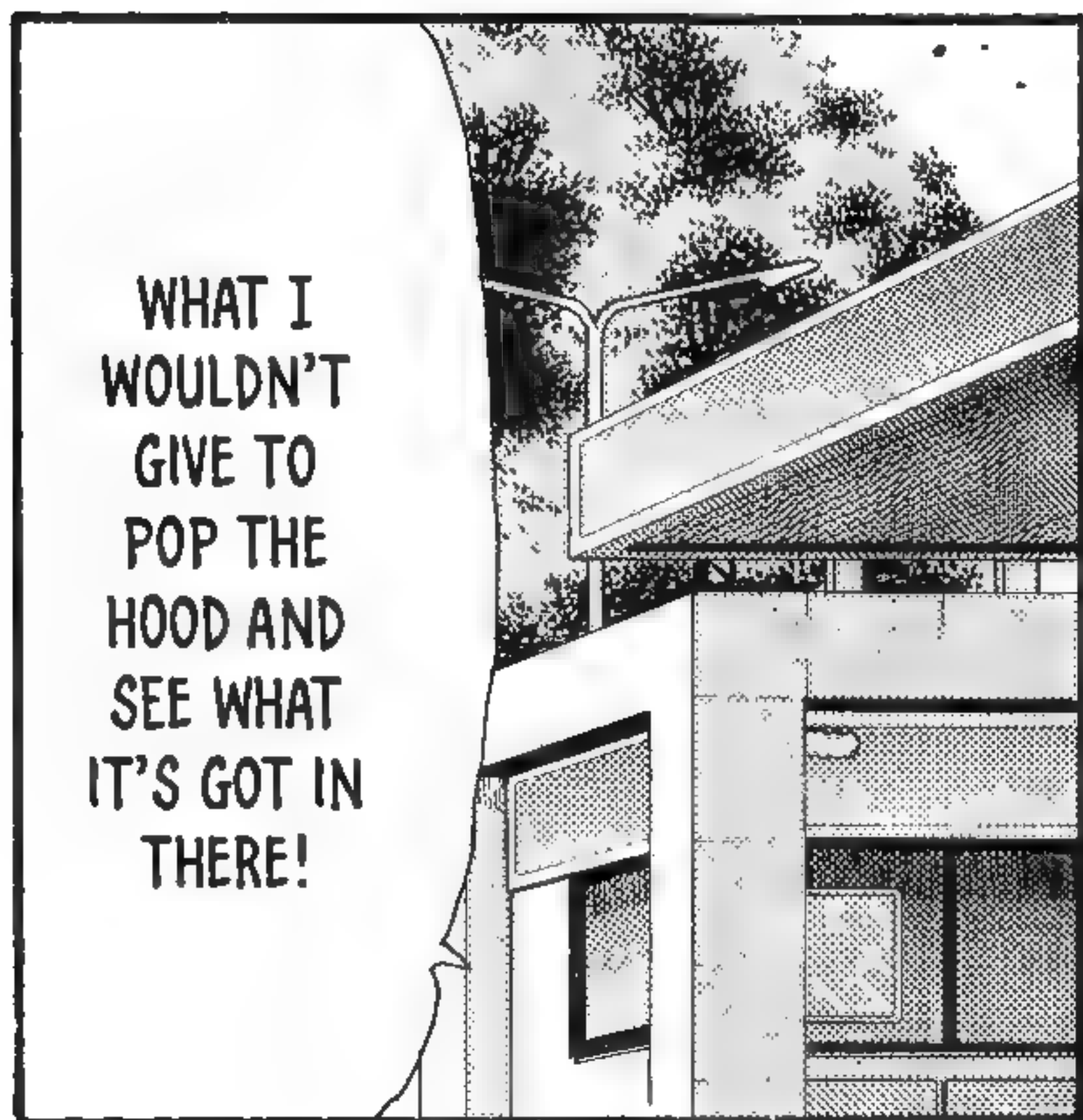
YOU CAN LET ME HANDLE THAT, IKETANI-SENPAI!

Heh heh!









WHAT I  
WOULDN'T  
GIVE TO  
POP THE  
HOOD AND  
SEE WHAT  
IT'S GOT IN  
THERE!

THAT THING  
MUST HAVE  
*SOME* TUNE  
ON IT!



I'LL BET!  
NOT WHEN IT  
BEAT A 350-  
PS FD!



YES!  
YES! NOW  
THERE'S A  
GOOD IDEA!

SIGN ME  
UP FOR  
THAT  
RIDE!

I'M SURE THE ENGINE  
BAY'S NICE AND ALL,  
BUT I'D RATHER BE  
IN THE LEFT SEAT  
WHILE TAKUMI TEARS  
DOWN AKINA WITH  
THE THROTTLE WIDE  
OPEN!

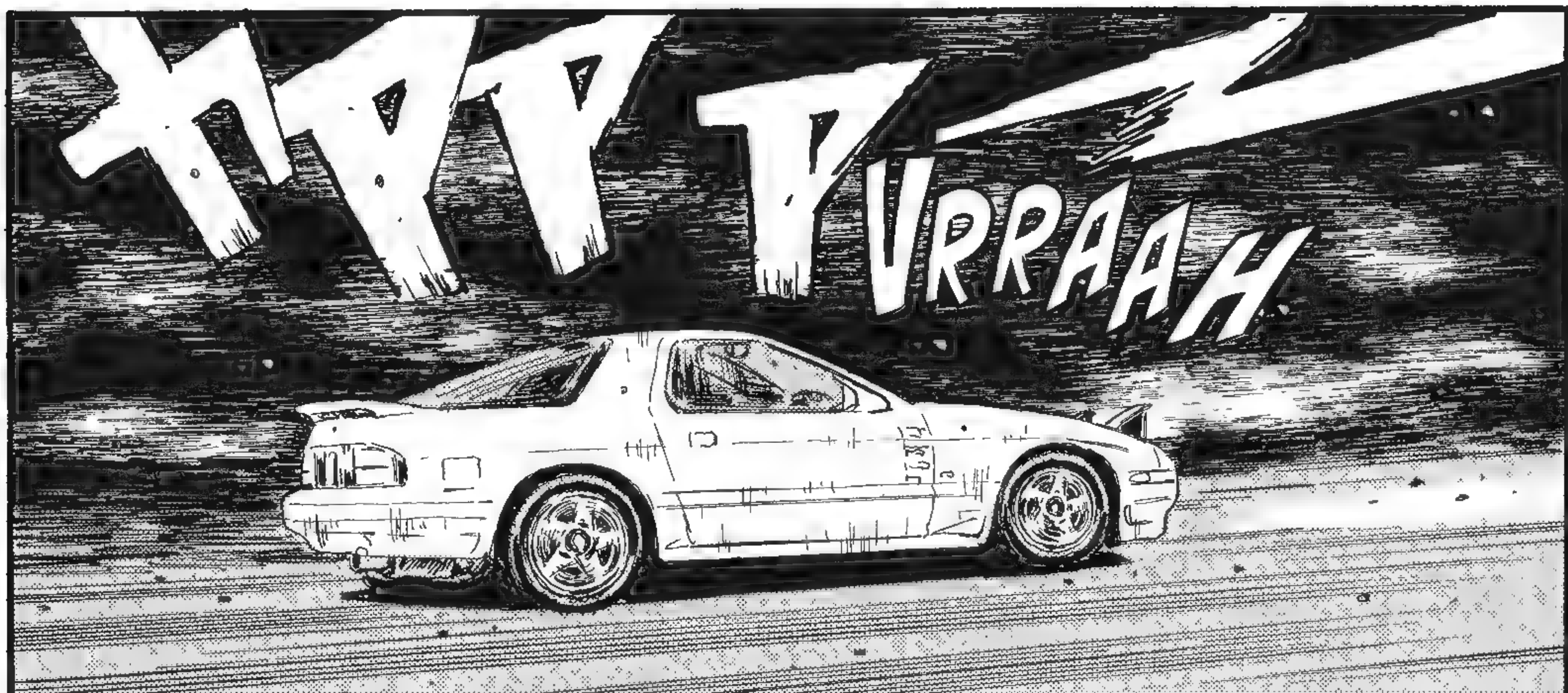


I BET  
IT WOULD BE  
MORE AWESOME  
THAN THE WILDEST  
ROLLER COASTER!  
OOH, JUST  
PICTURE  
IT!

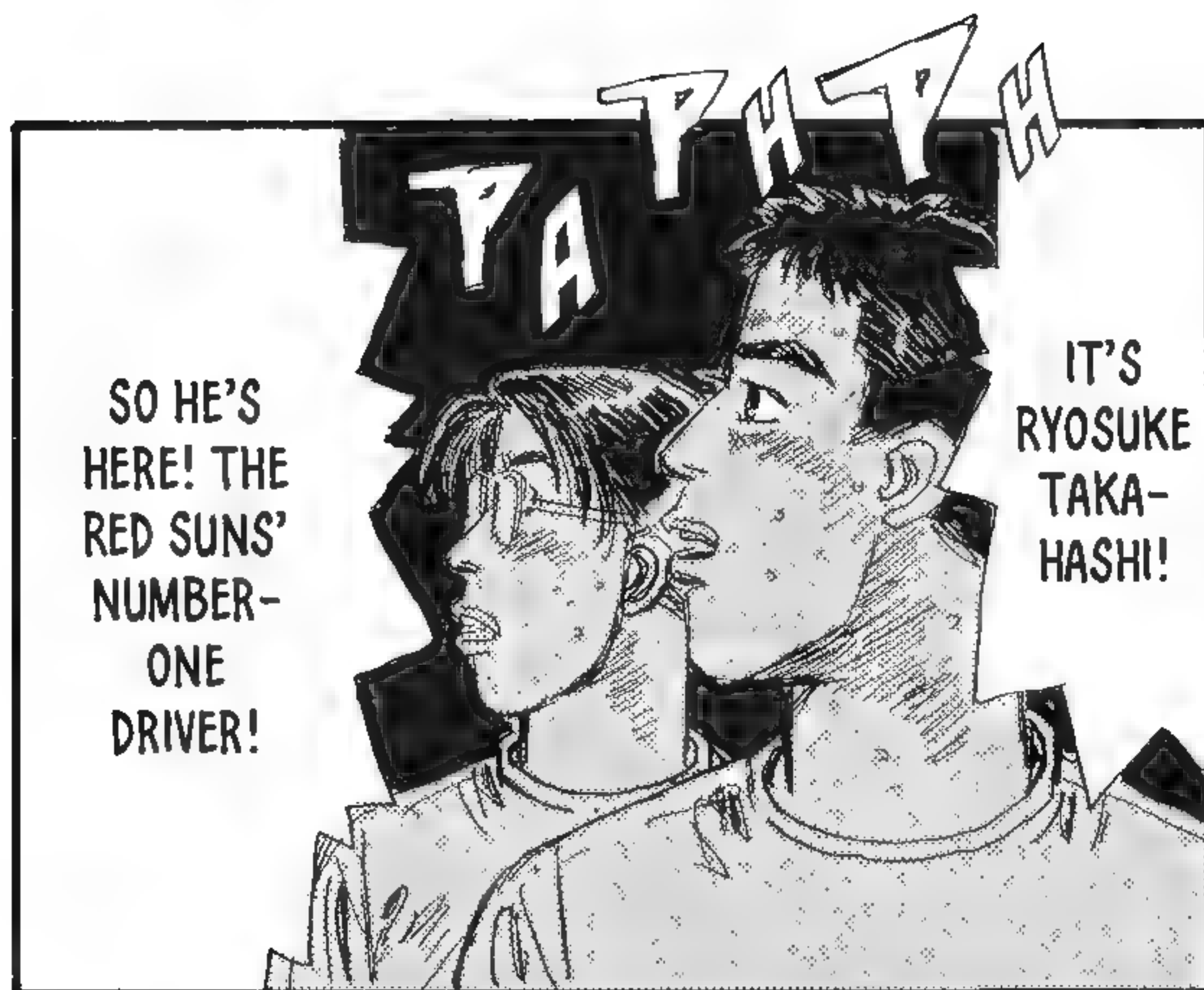
I BET IT'D BE  
LIKE NOTHING  
WE'VE EVER  
EXPERIENCED!



Mount  
Akina







SO HE'S  
HERE! THE  
RED SUNS'  
NUMBER-  
ONE  
DRIVER!

IT'S  
RYOSUKE  
TAKA-  
HASHI!



I KNOW  
THAT  
WHITE  
FC3S!

WHOA!  
HEY!



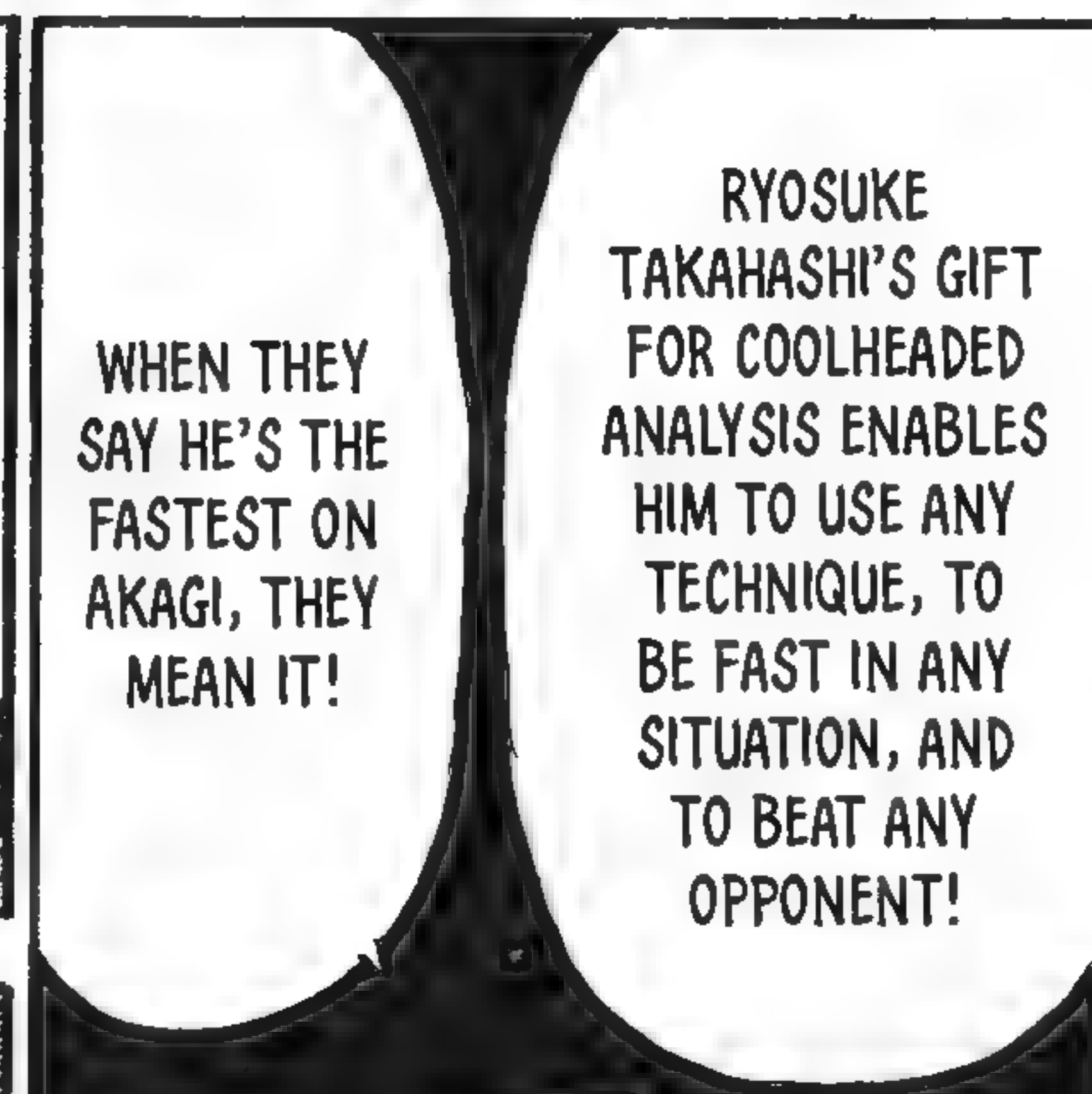
AVENGING  
HIS BROTHER'S  
DEFEAT,  
OBVIOUSLY!  
WHAT ELSE  
COULD IT  
BE?

BUT  
WHAT'S HE  
DOING ON  
AKINA?



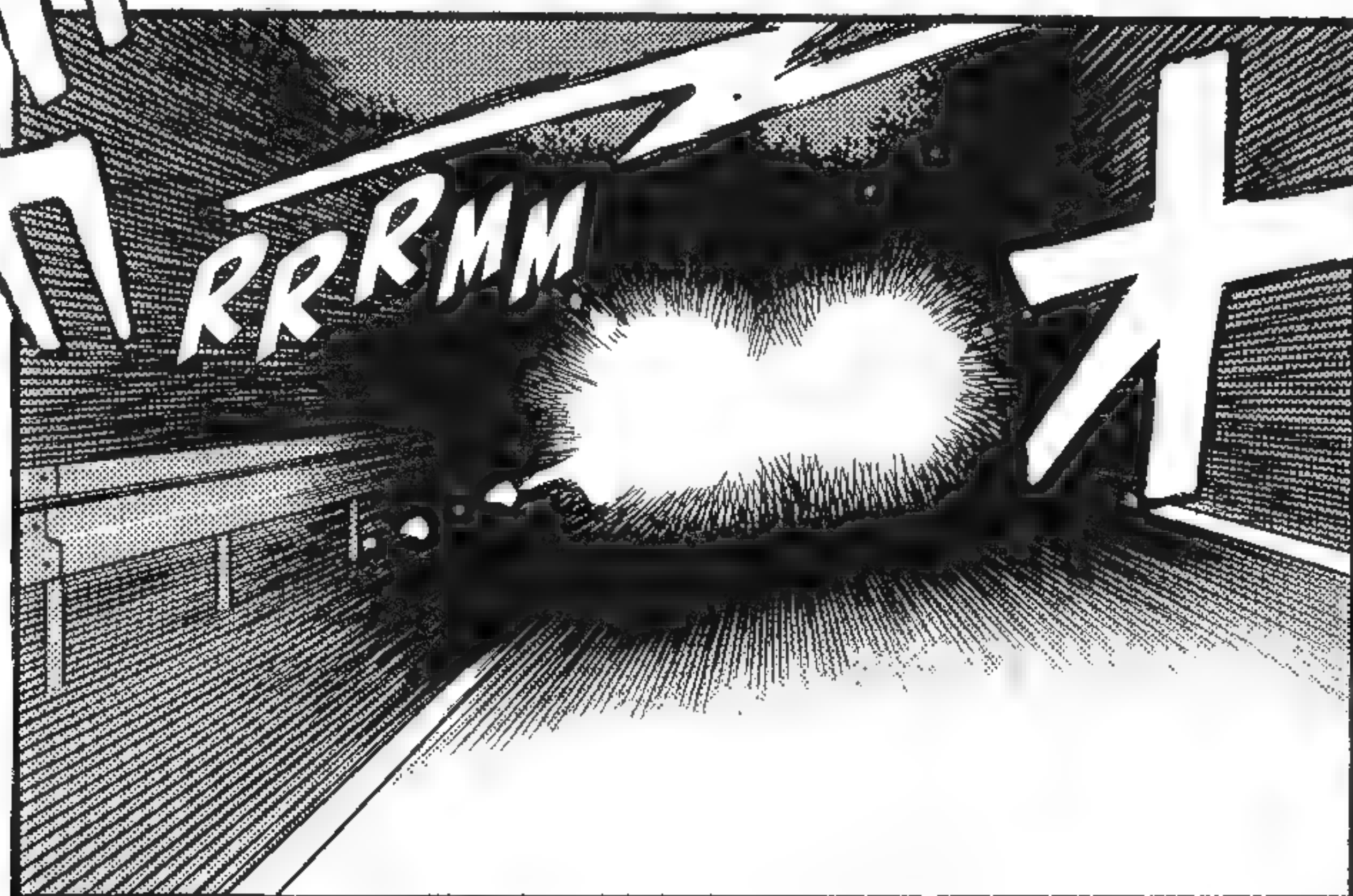
I GUESS BEING  
SHOWN UP BY  
THAT EIGHT-SIX  
REALLY PISSED  
HIM OFF!

IT'S  
HARDLY  
BEEN A  
WHOLE DAY  
SINCE THE  
BATTLE!



WHEN THEY  
SAY HE'S THE  
FASTEST ON  
AKAGI, THEY  
MEAN IT!

RYOSUKE  
TAKAHASHI'S GIFT  
FOR COOLHEADED  
ANALYSIS ENABLES  
HIM TO USE ANY  
TECHNIQUE, TO  
BE FAST IN ANY  
SITUATION, AND  
TO BEAT ANY  
OPPONENT!







IT GIVES ME  
THE CHILLS...  
IT'S LIKE A  
PHANTOM!

A BLACK  
GT-R!



I DON'T  
KNOW! I'VE  
NEVER SEEN  
THAT CAR  
AROUND HERE  
BEFORE...

OKAY,  
BUT  
WHO'S  
THAT  
GUY?

ROAR



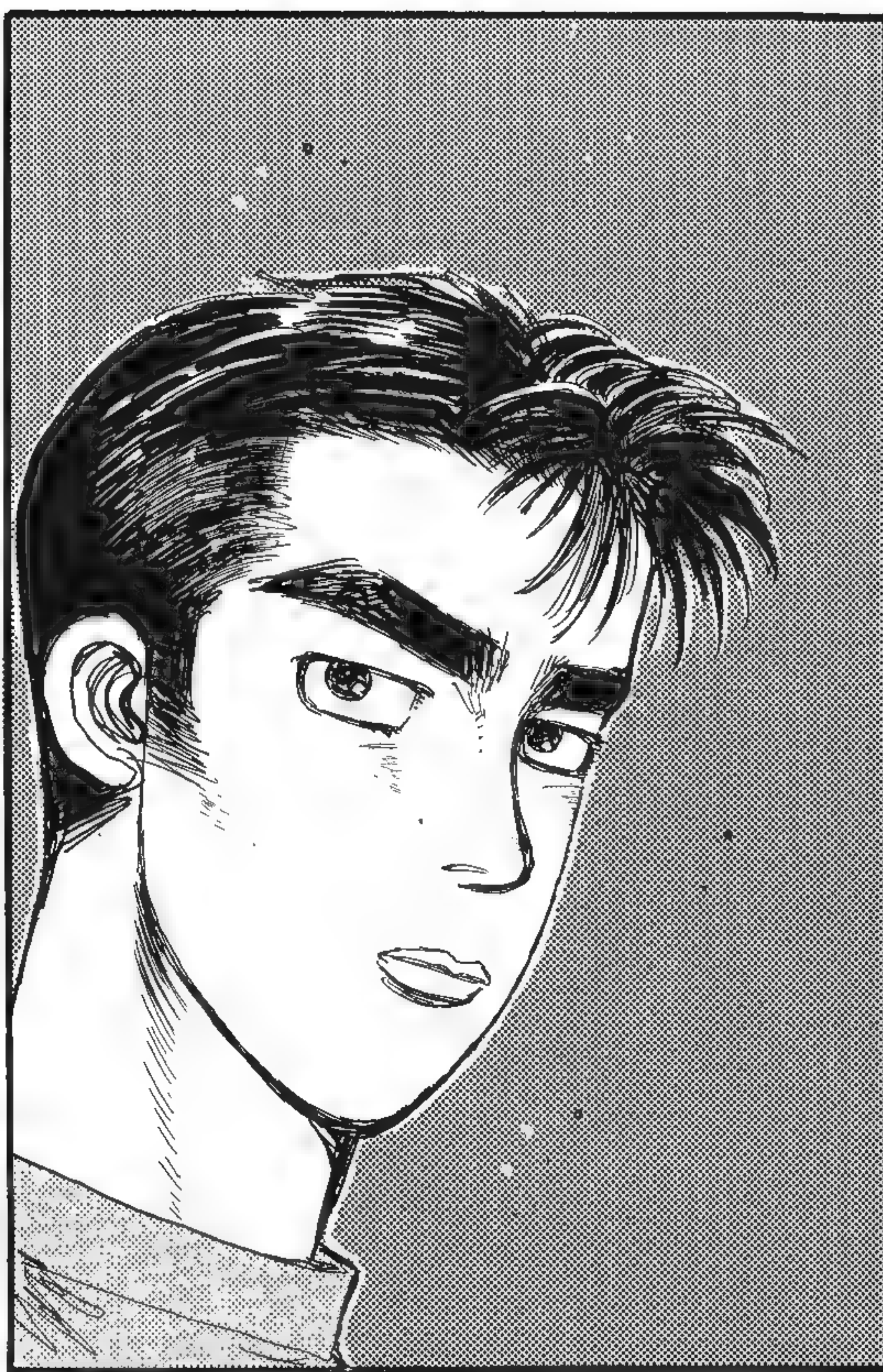
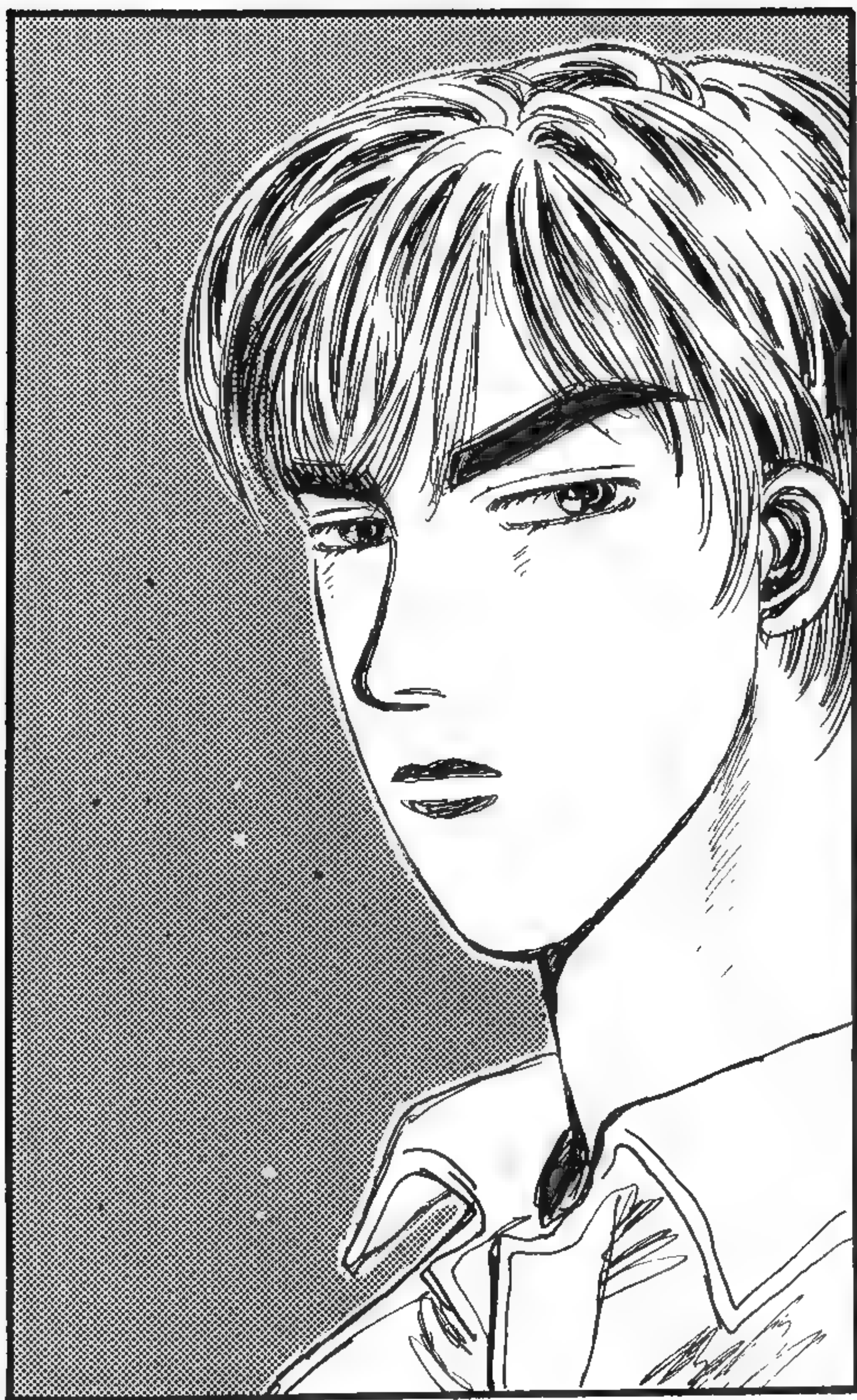
SO  
WHO THE  
HELL'S  
DRIVING  
IT?!

ZRRRRR

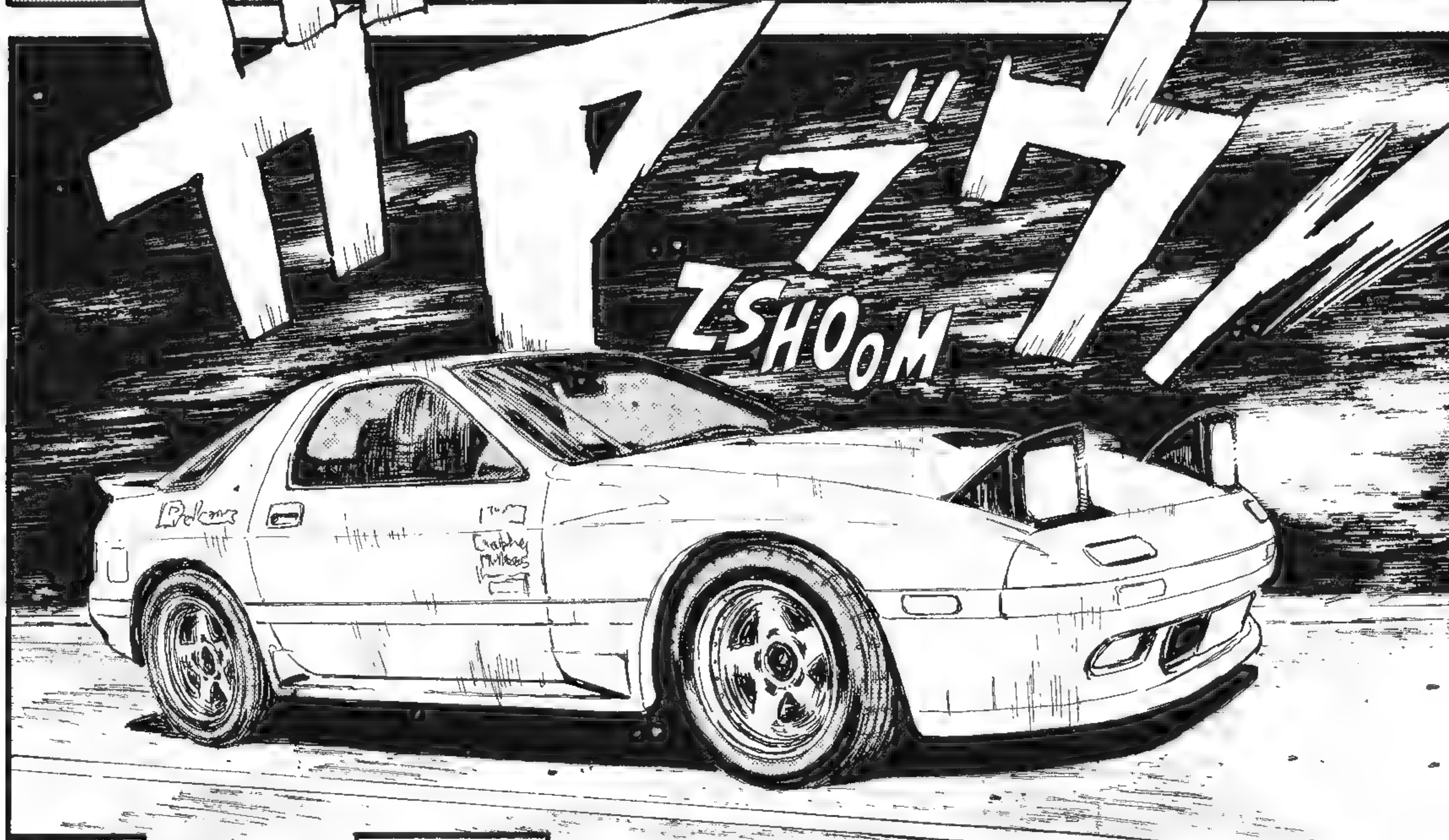
PSH  
PSH  
PSS-  
SHH



▶ *Ch. 15: Showdown at the Summit!*



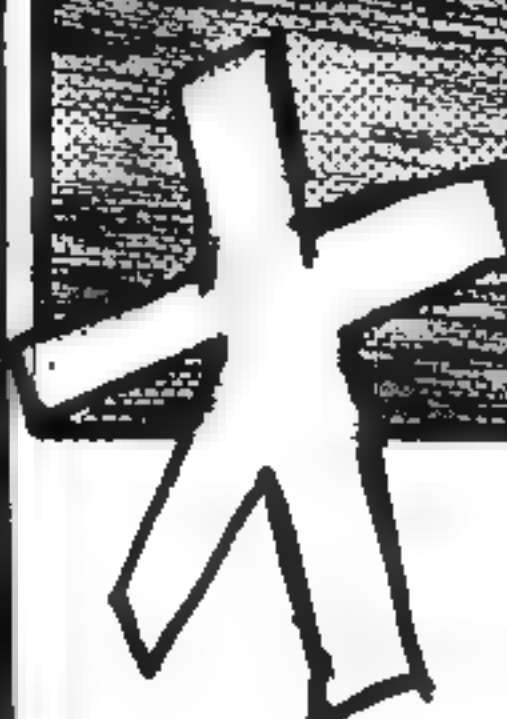




I'LL  
WAIT A  
MINUTE.  
SEE WHAT  
SHOWS  
UP.

SOMETHING'S  
COMING UP  
FAST ON THE  
STRAIGHT.

GLEAM



ROOAR

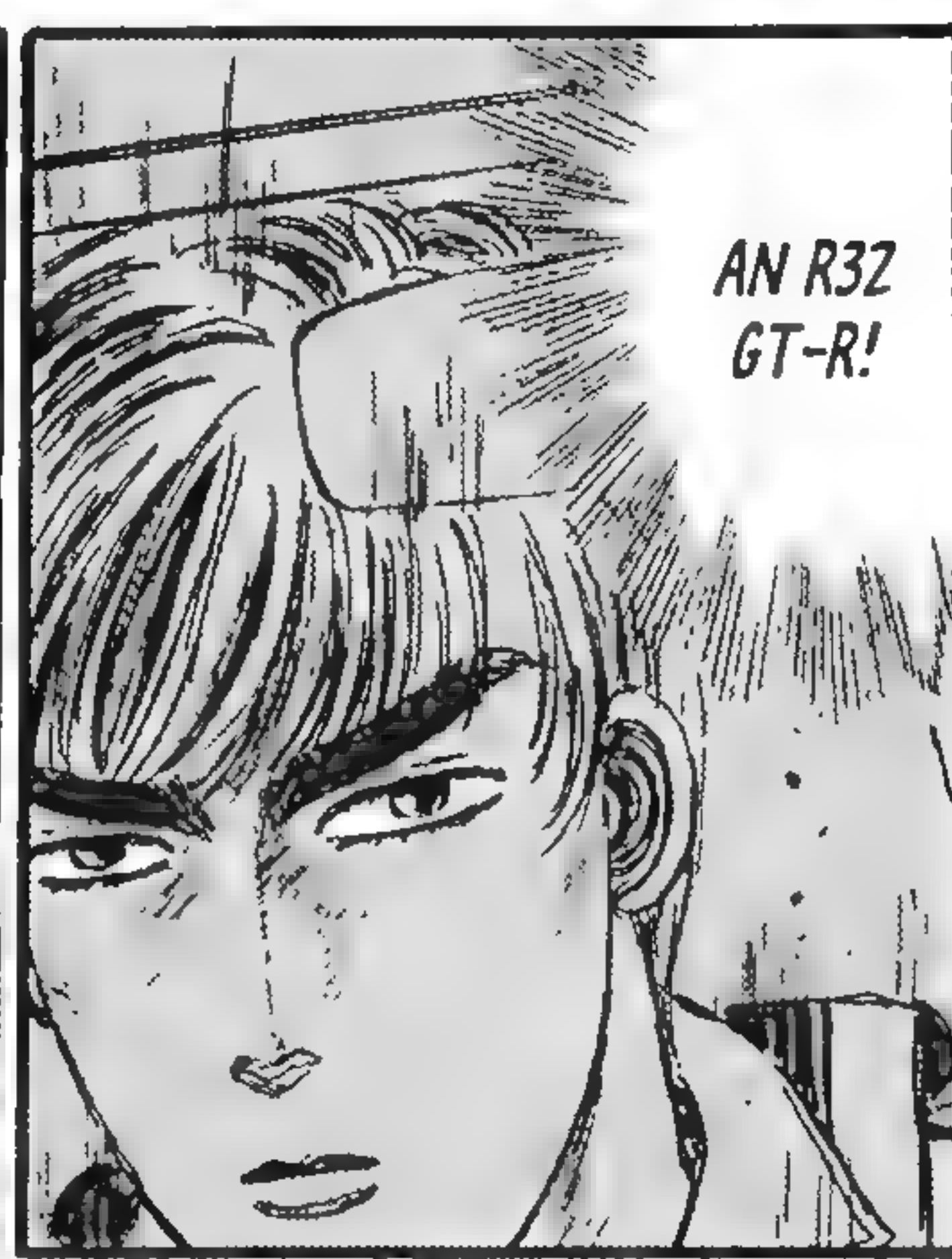




LET'S SEE  
IF HE CAN  
KEEP UP...

I'LL  
START BY  
GOING AT  
EIGHT-  
TENTHS.

MAYBE  
I'LL SEE  
WHAT  
HE'S  
GOT.

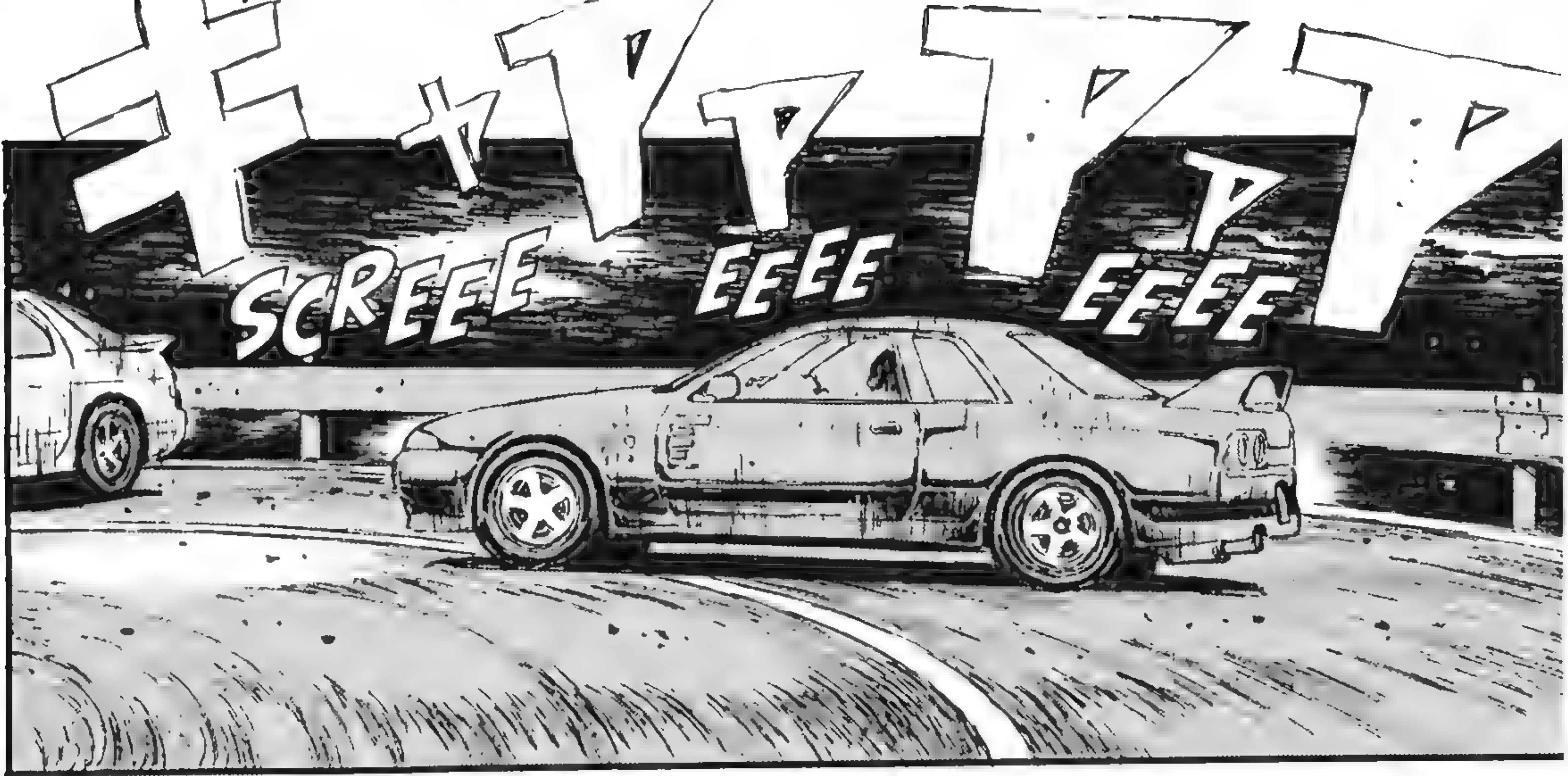


AN R32  
GT-R!

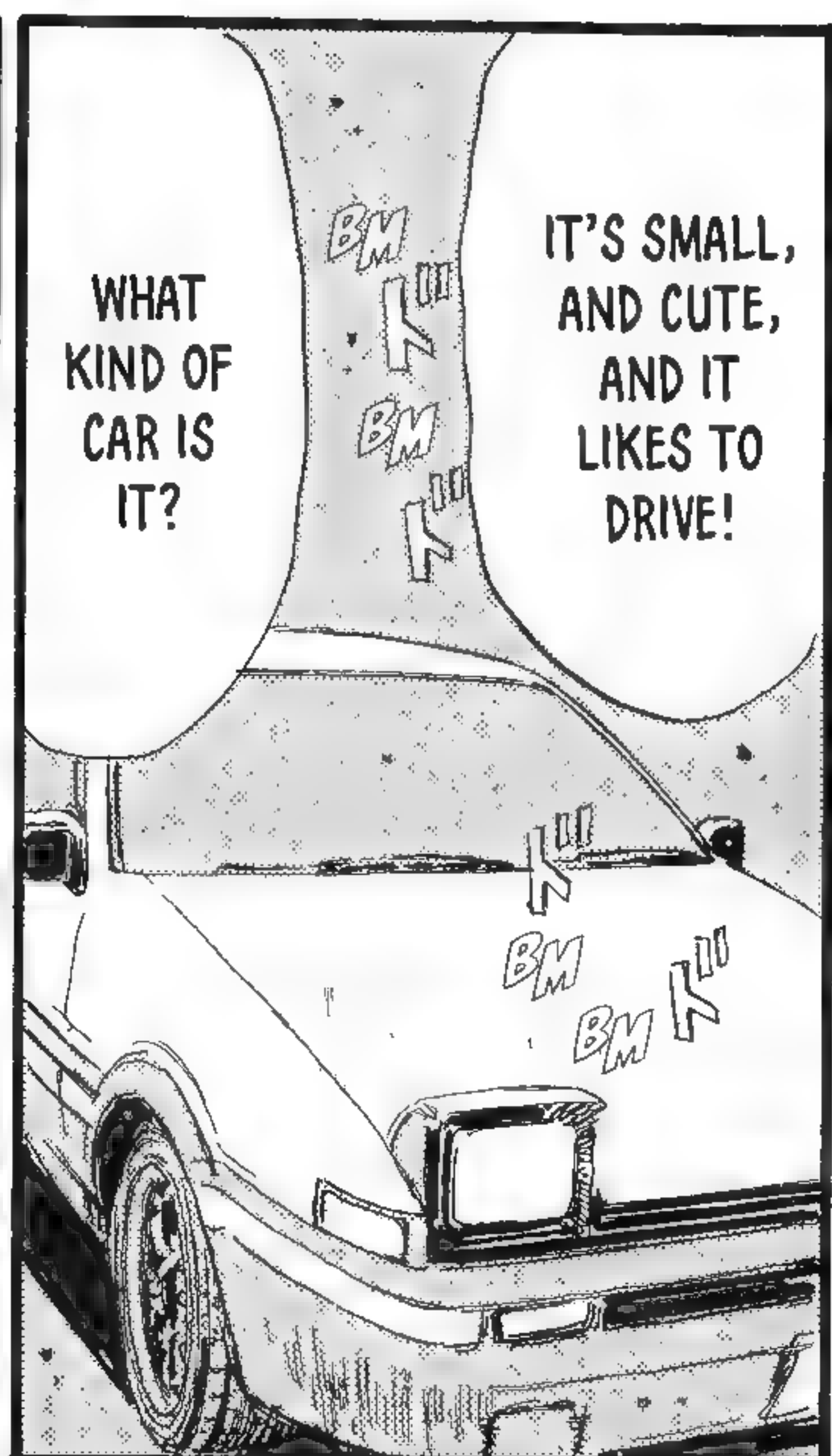
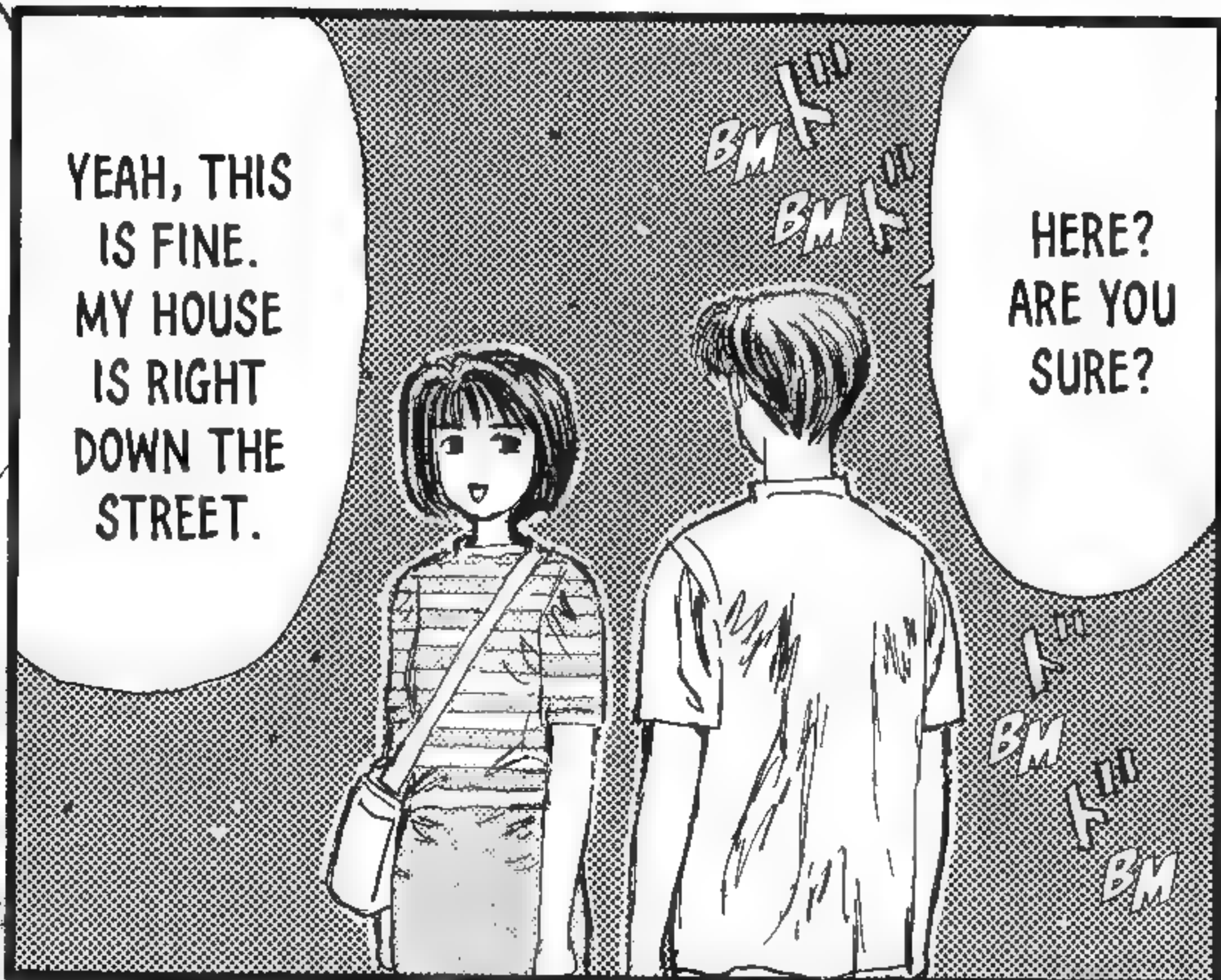








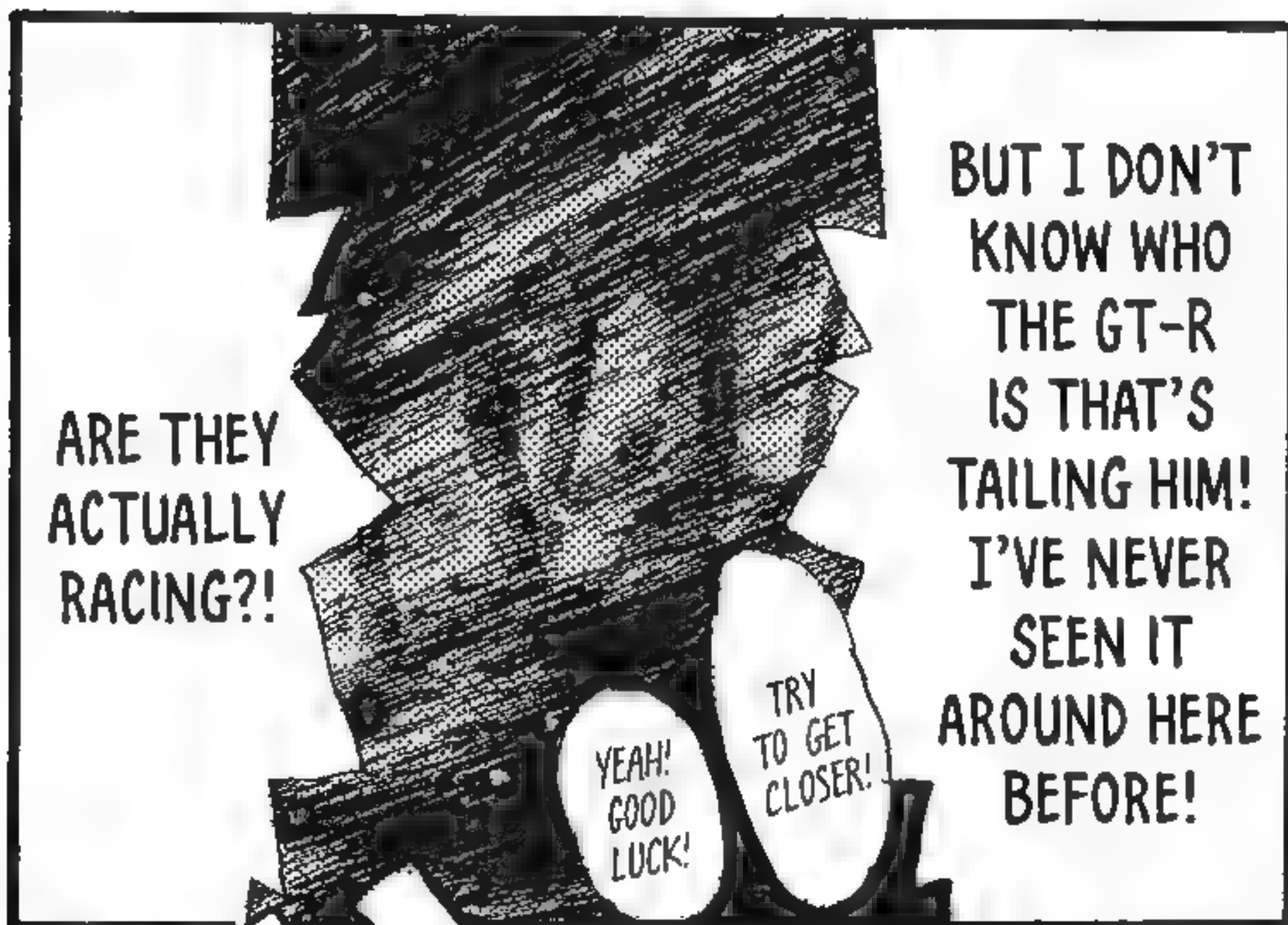




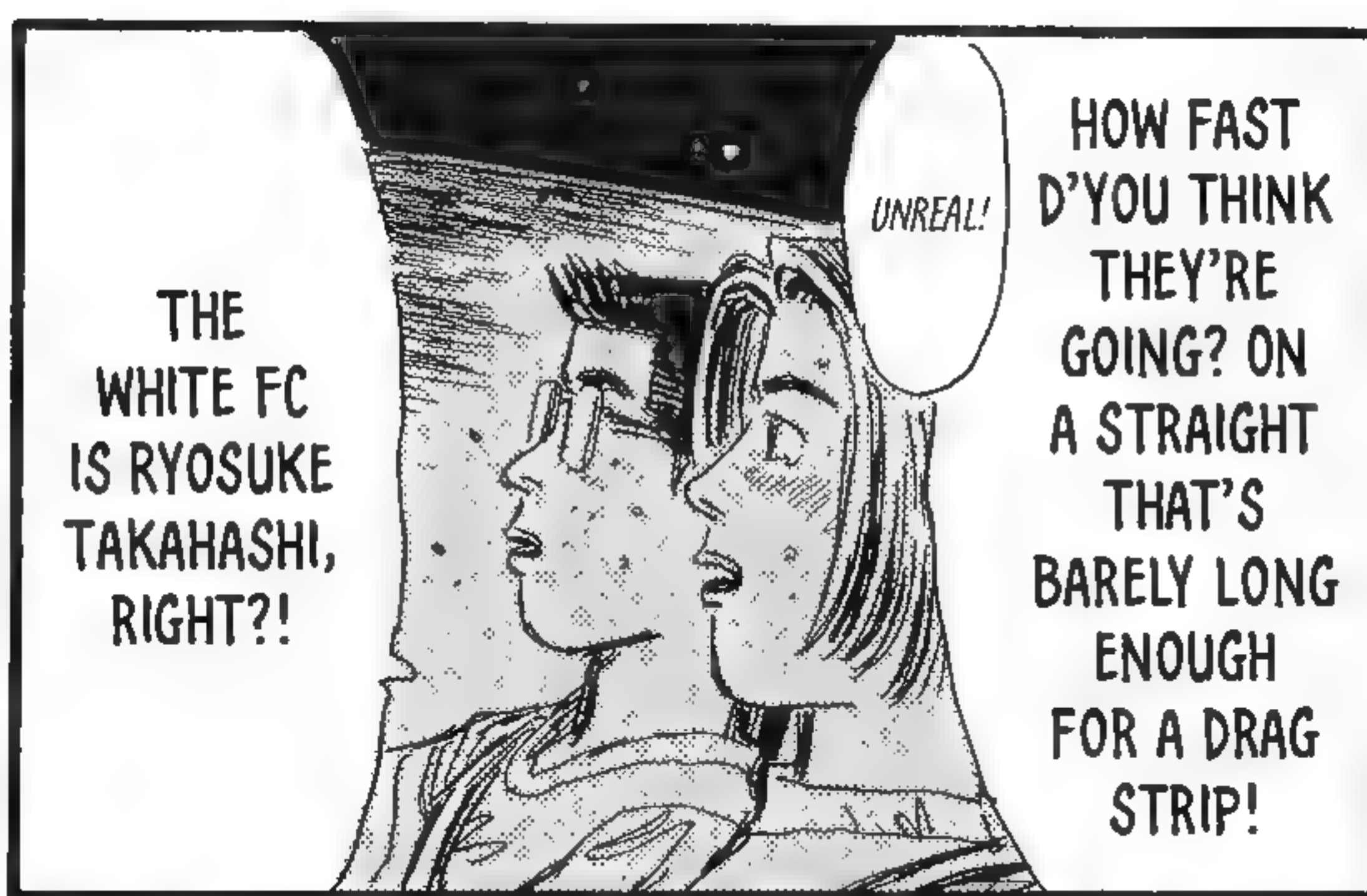






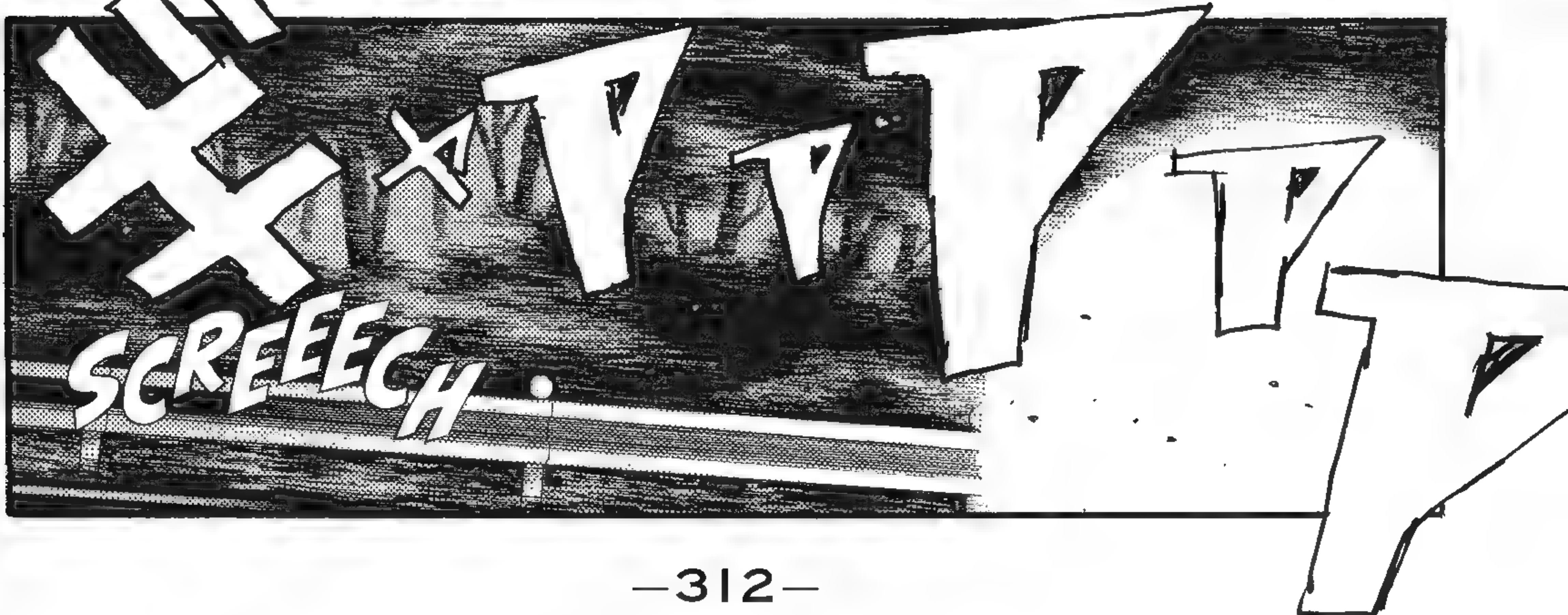


BUT I DON'T KNOW WHO THE GT-R IS THAT'S TAILING HIM! I'VE NEVER SEEN IT AROUND HERE BEFORE!



THE WHITE FC IS RYOSUKE TAKAHASHI, RIGHT?!

HOW FAST D'YOU THINK THEY'RE GOING? ON A STRAIGHT THAT'S BARELY LONG ENOUGH FOR A DRAG STRIP!





NOT HALF BAD.  
HE'S ACTUALLY  
KEEPING UP  
WITH ME.

WELL,  
WELL.

I  
GUESS EVEN  
THE BEST  
DRIVER CAN'T  
OVERCOME  
OUTDATED  
MACHINERY  
LIKE THAT  
FC.

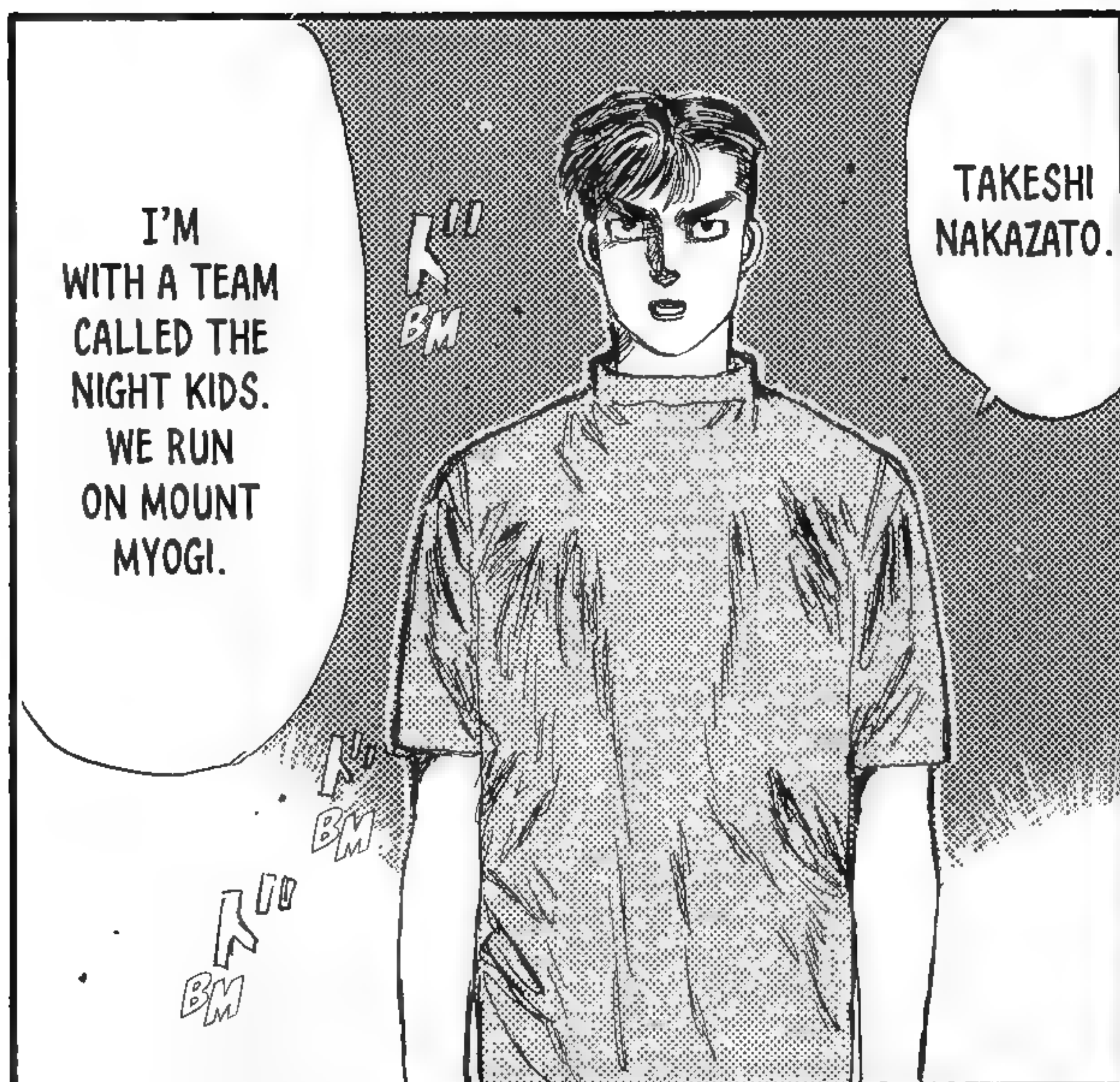
I'M  
ACTUALLY  
KEEPING  
PACE WITH  
RYOSUKE  
TAKAHASHI!

YOU'RE  
ONE TO  
TALK!

I'M  
RYOSUKE  
TAKAHASHI  
OF THE RED  
SUNS.

Atop  
Akina...



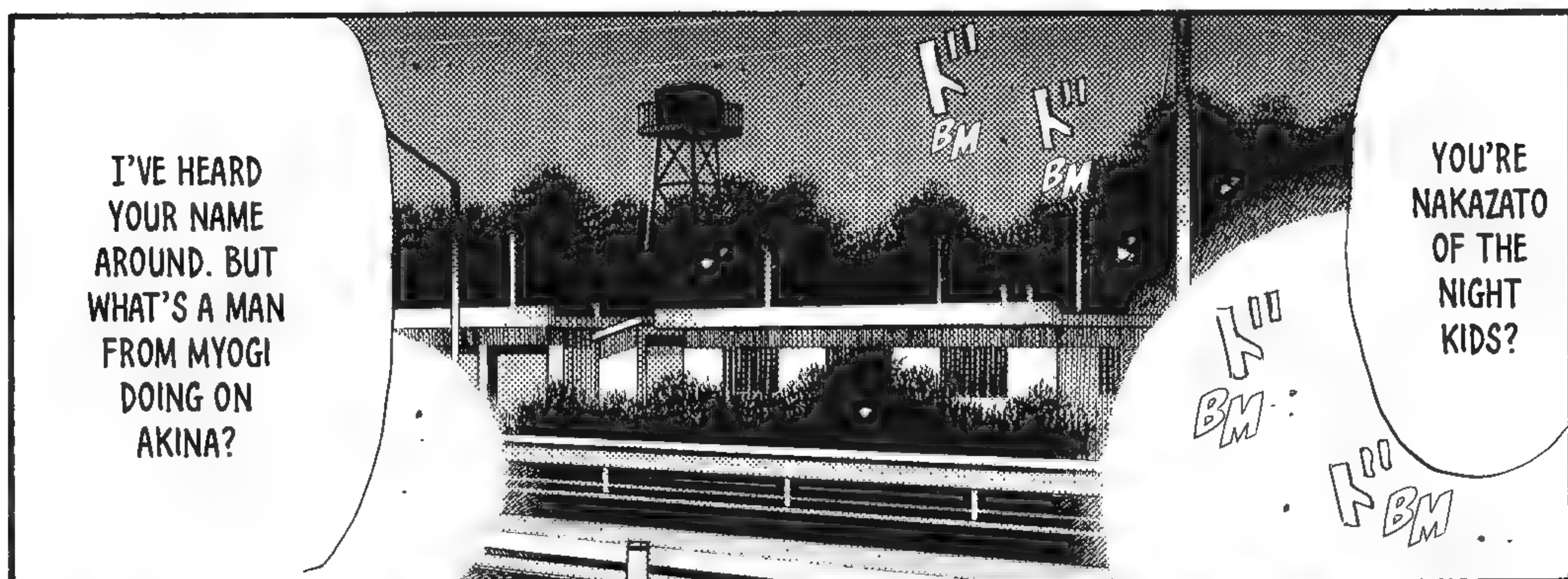


I'M  
WITH A TEAM  
CALLED THE  
NIGHT KIDS.  
WE RUN  
ON MOUNT  
MYOGI.

TAKESHI  
NAKAZATO.



MAY  
I ASK  
WHO YOU  
ARE?



I'VE HEARD  
YOUR NAME  
AROUND. BUT  
WHAT'S A MAN  
FROM MYOGI  
DOING ON  
AKINA?

YOU'RE  
NAKAZATO  
OF THE  
NIGHT  
KIDS?



...AND WE'RE  
BOTH HOPING  
TO SEE  
HIM AGAIN  
TONIGHT.

WE BOTH SAW  
THAT EIGHT-SIX  
YESTERDAY...



IF I HAD  
TO GUESS,  
THOUGH, I'D  
BET WE'RE  
HERE FOR  
THE SAME  
REASON.

I COULD  
ASK YOU  
THE SAME  
QUESTION.  
DON'T YOU  
BELONG ON  
AKAGI?





YOU  
DON'T SEE  
MANY MORE  
LOPSIDED  
MATCHUPS  
THAN THAT.  
WHERE DO YOU  
INTEND TO  
CHALLENGE  
HIM?

A MAN AT  
THE WHEEL  
OF A GT-R,  
ALL IN  
A TIZZY  
ABOUT AN  
EIGHT-  
SIX!

HMPH.



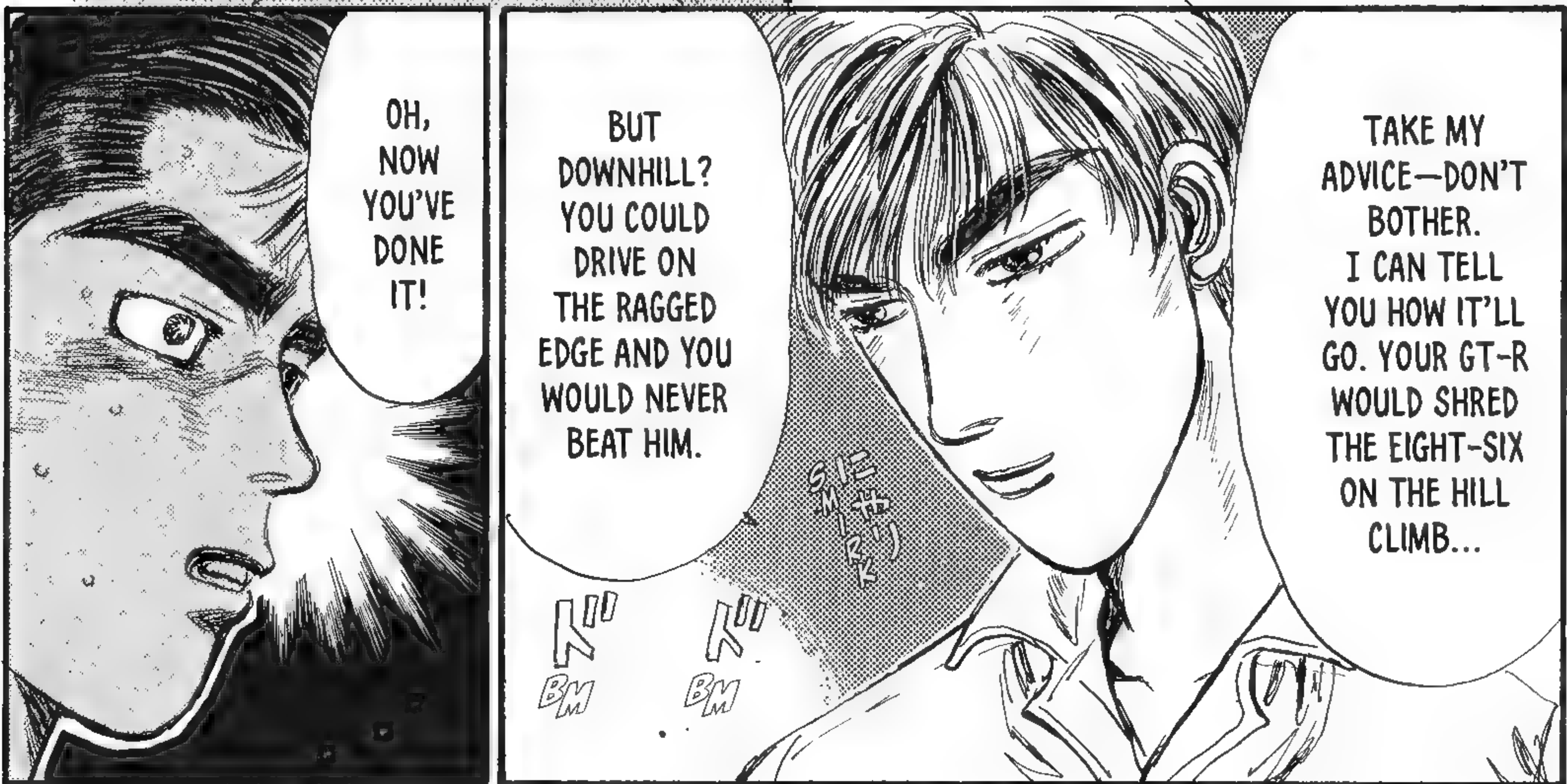
HOW'S THIS  
PRICK KNOW  
HOW MUCH  
POWER MY  
ENGINE  
MAKES?

WHAT  
DID YOU  
SAY...?

OOPSIE! GUESS  
MY RIDE'S  
FAMOUS!



YOU, WITH  
YOUR GT-R  
TUNED FOR  
380 PS?



OH,  
NOW  
YOU'VE  
DONE  
IT!

BUT  
DOWNHILL?  
YOU COULD  
DRIVE ON  
THE RAGGED  
EDGE AND YOU  
WOULD NEVER  
BEAT HIM.

TAKE MY  
ADVICE—DON'T  
BOTHER.  
I CAN TELL  
YOU HOW IT'LL  
GO. YOUR GT-R  
WOULD SHRED  
THE EIGHT-SIX  
ON THE HILL  
CLIMB...





YOU'RE  
SAYIN' MY  
GT-R WOULD  
LOSE TO AN  
EIGHT-SIX?



DON'T  
TAKE IT  
PERSONALLY.  
IT'S JUST MY  
ASSESSMENT  
OF THE  
SITUATION.

YES,  
I AM.



...IS  
THAT  
ONLY  
I CAN  
POSSIBLY  
BEST  
THAT  
CAR.

I GUESS  
SOME  
PEOPLE  
ONLY  
LEARN BY  
DOING.  
AND WHAT  
YOU'LL  
LEARN...



HE BEAT  
YOUR  
BROTHER,  
AND NOW  
YOU'RE  
RUNNING  
SCARED! OF  
A SHITBOX  
EIGHT-SIX!

Y'KNOW  
WHAT'S  
PERSONAL?  
YOUR WHINY  
LITTLE ASS,  
THAT'S  
WHAT!





I'M GONNA  
DUST THAT  
EIGHT-SIX,  
AND THEN  
I'M GONNA  
MAKE YOU EAT  
YOUR WORDS!

NOW  
YOU  
KNOW  
I'M NOT  
BACKING  
DOWN.



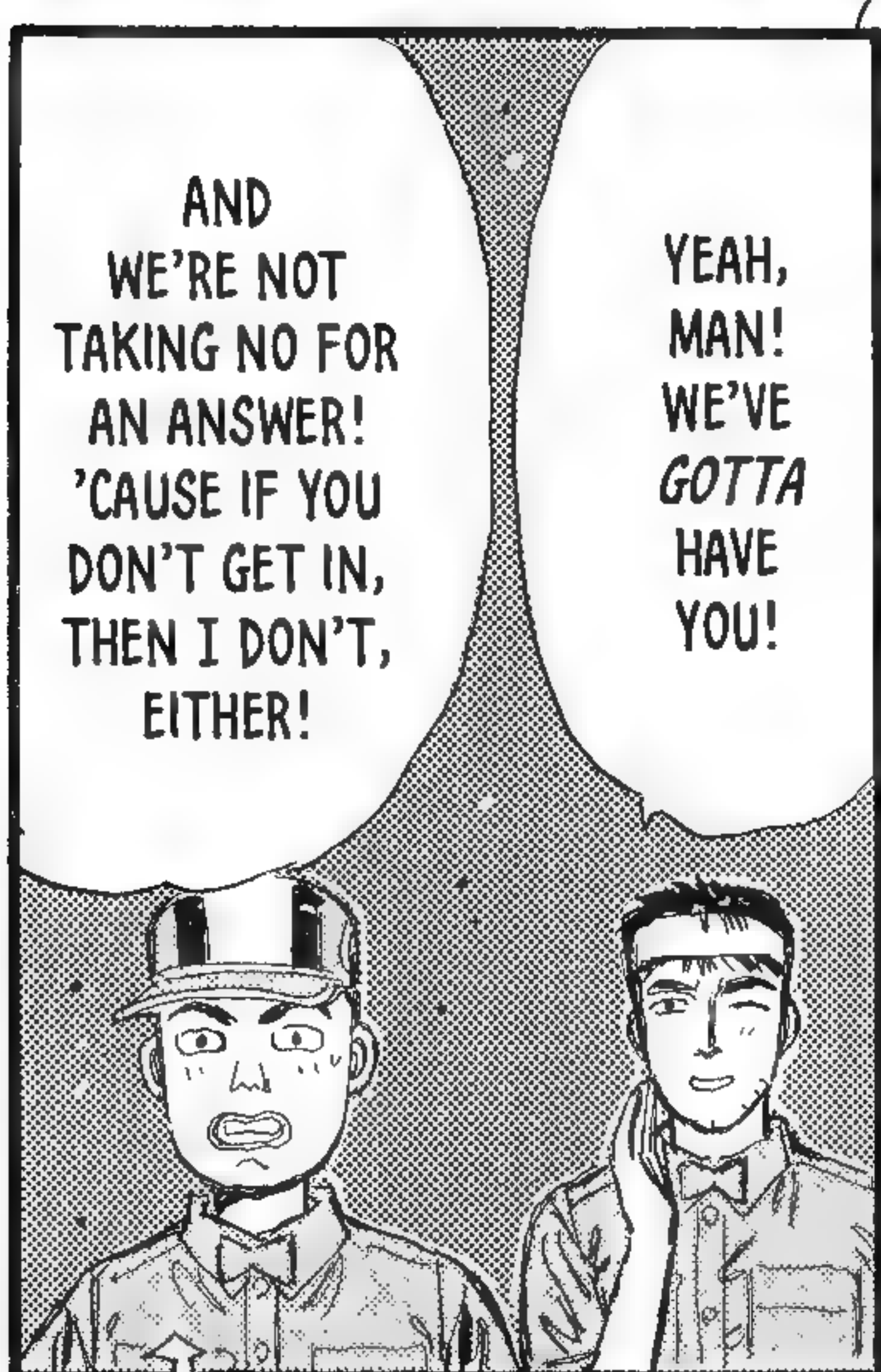
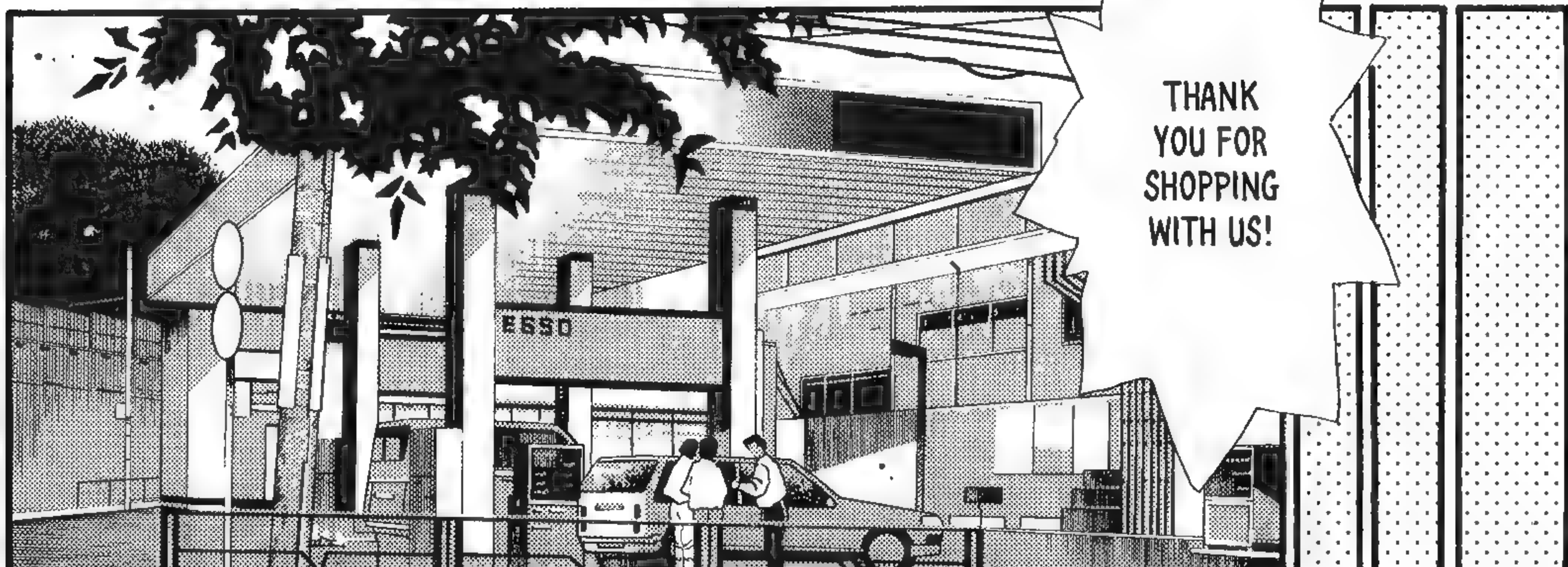
I'M  
SICK  
OF  
THIS  
BULL-  
SHIT.



THE  
ONLY THING THAT  
WHINES LOUDER  
THAN YOU IS THAT  
ROTARY ENGINE,  
AND MY GT-R'S  
GONNA BURY  
YOU BOTH!

HAVE FUN  
SNEERING WHILE  
YOU CAN. I'LL  
SHOW YOU THAT  
YOU HAVEN'T  
RECKONED  
WITH TAKESHI  
NAKAZATO OF  
MOUNT MYOGI!





AND  
WE'RE NOT  
TAKING NO FOR  
AN ANSWER!  
'CAUSE IF YOU  
DON'T GET IN,  
THEN I DON'T,  
EITHER!

YEAH,  
MAN!  
WE'VE  
GOTTA  
HAVE  
YOU!

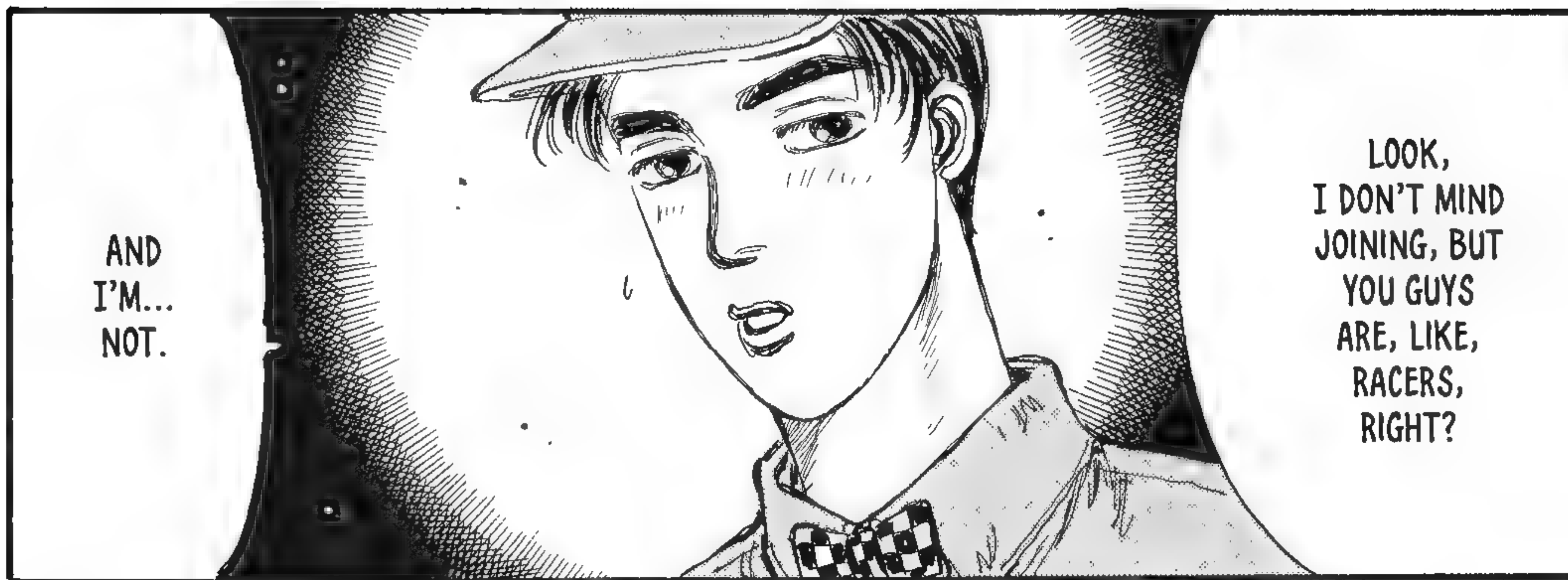
...TO  
JOIN  
YOUR  
TEAM?!

ME?!  
IKETANI-  
SENPAI,  
YOU WANT  
ME...

TALKS A GOOD GAME,  
TILL YOU HEAR WHAT  
HE'S SAYING.

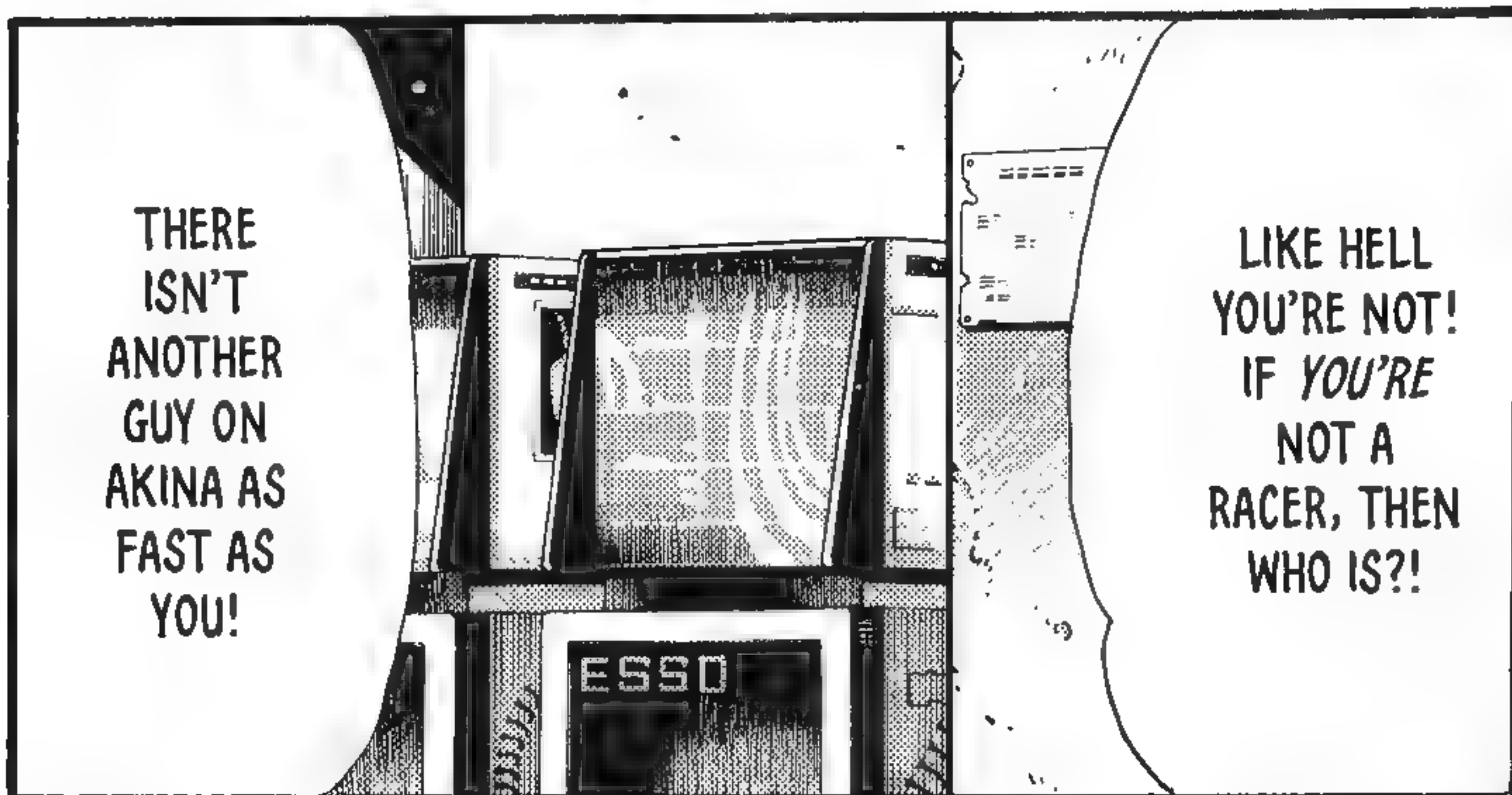






AND  
I'M...  
NOT.

LOOK,  
I DON'T MIND  
JOINING, BUT  
YOU GUYS  
ARE, LIKE,  
RACERS,  
RIGHT?



THERE  
ISN'T  
ANOTHER  
GUY ON  
AKINA AS  
FAST AS  
YOU!

LIKE HELL  
YOU'RE NOT!  
IF YOU'RE  
NOT A  
RACER, THEN  
WHO IS?!



HE SAID  
YOU'VE BEEN  
DOING TOFU  
DELIVERIES  
TO LAKE  
AKINA FOR  
FIVE YEARS!  
IS THAT  
TRUE?

I  
GUESS.

SENPAI  
TOLD ME  
WHAT YOU'VE  
BEEN UP TO,  
TAKUMI!



YOU  
THINK  
SO...?



YEAH.  
YOU DIDN'T  
HAVE A  
LICENSE.

ONLY  
IN A  
MANGA!

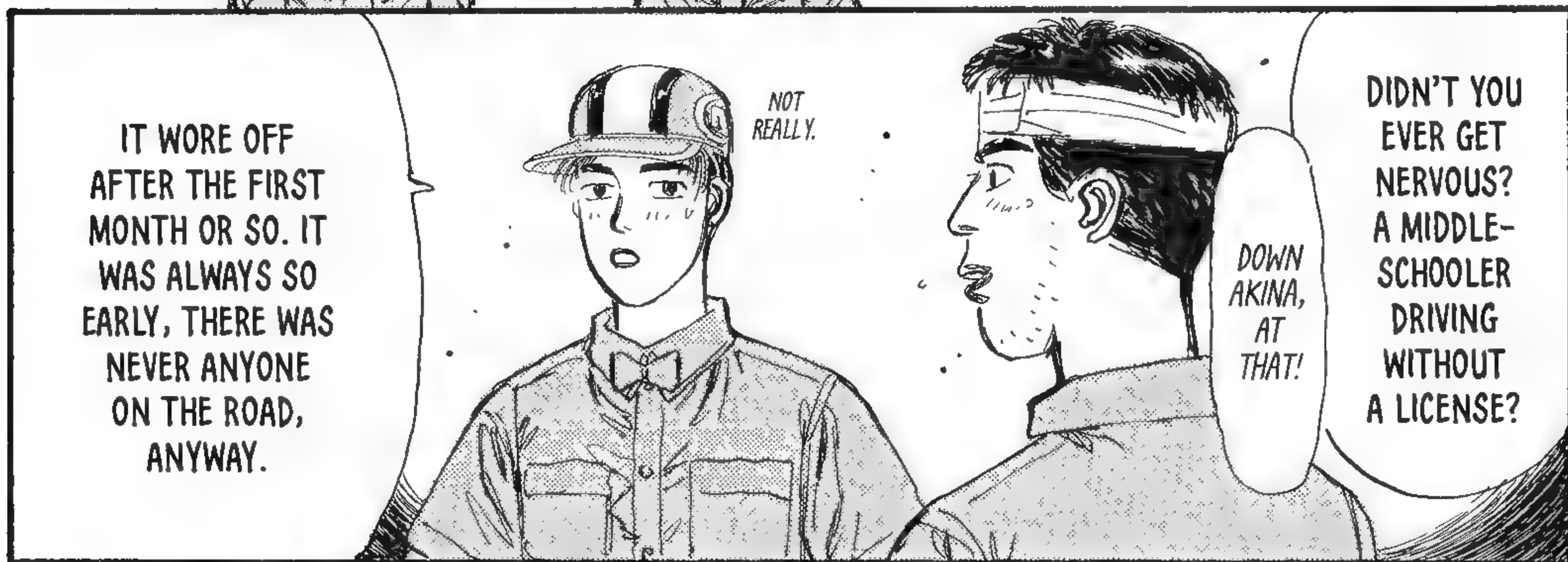
LET'S  
DO SOME  
MENTAL MATH  
HERE. FIVE  
YEARS AGO,  
WE WOULD'VE  
BEEN IN OUR  
FIRST YEAR  
OF MIDDLE  
SCHOOL,  
SO...



WHY?  
I MIGHT AS  
WELL TELL  
YOU THAT  
I TAKE OUT  
THE TRASH  
IN THE  
MORN-  
INGS...

WERE YOU  
EVER GONNA  
TELL ME?  
ME, YOUR  
BEST  
FRIEND?!









AND  
SINCE IT WAS  
GONNA HAPPEN  
ANYWAY, I  
FIGURED I MIGHT  
AS WELL SEE HOW  
CLOSE I COULD  
GET TO THE  
GUARDRAIL WHILE  
I WAS DOING IT.

IT'S HARD TO  
BE SCARED OF  
SLIDING WHEN  
YOU DO IT  
EVERY SINGLE  
DAY.



I DIDN'T THINK  
OF IT AS ANYTHING  
DANGEROUS. PLUS,  
I COULD GET WITHIN  
A CENTIMETER ON  
A GOOD DAY.

NO ONE,  
THAT'S  
WHO!

JUST FOR  
SHITS AND  
GIGGLES?  
WHO DOES  
THAT?



I MEAN,  
I HAD TO FIND  
SOME WAY TO  
HAVE A LITTLE  
FUN, OR IT WAS  
JUST A BORING  
CHORE.

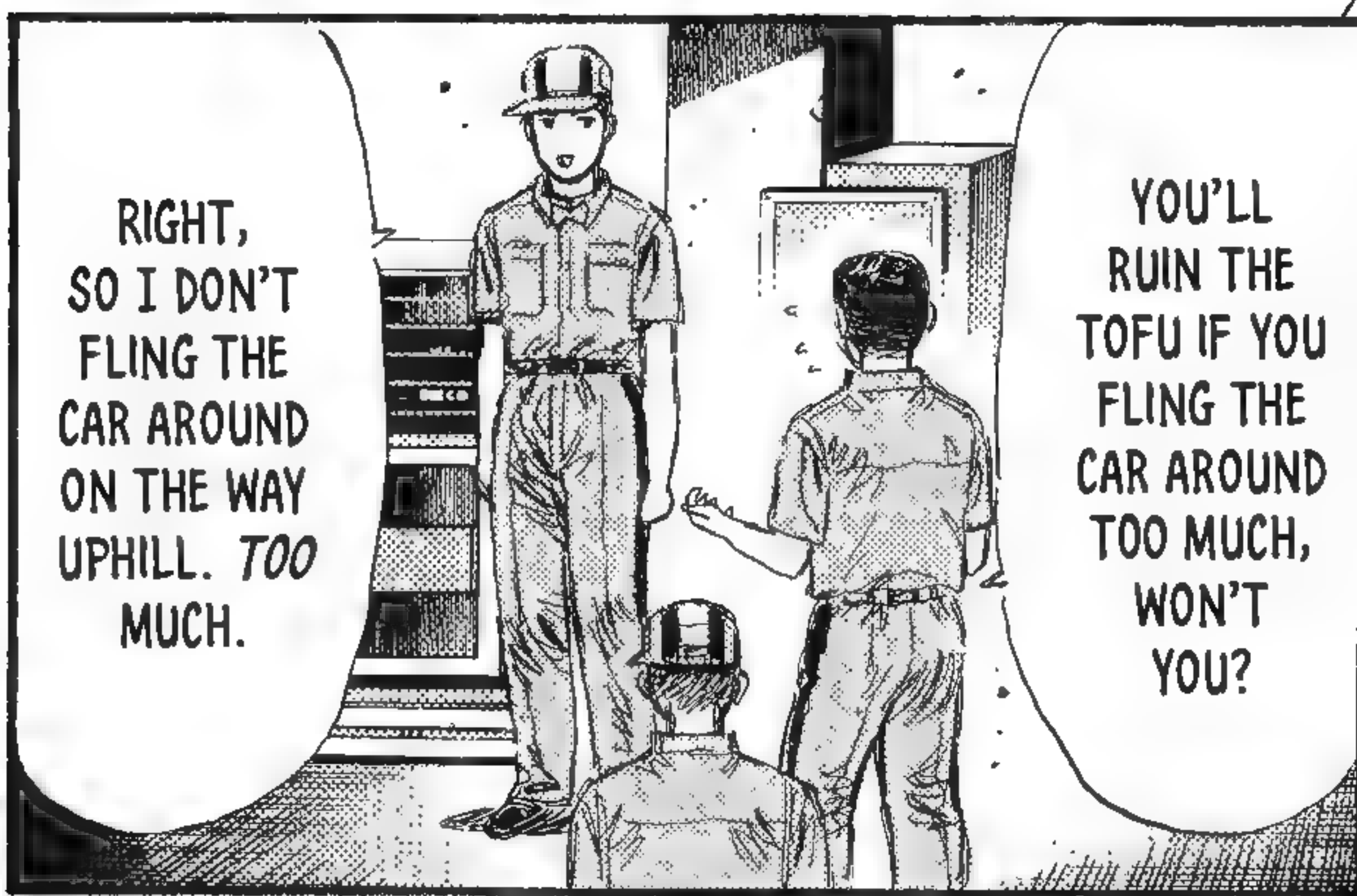
あせん  
GUH?





I WAS JUST BORED OUT OF MY MIND AND WANTED TO GET HOME AS FAST AS I COULD, SO I DROVE THE SHIT OUT OF THAT CAR ON THE WAY DOWNHILL BECAUSE I WASN'T CARRYING ANY TOFU.

WHAT I'M SAYING IS, I NEVER THOUGHT, "GEE, I WANT TO BE A GREAT DRIVER," OR WHATEVER.



RIGHT, SO I DON'T FLING THE CAR AROUND ON THE WAY UPHILL. TOO MUCH.

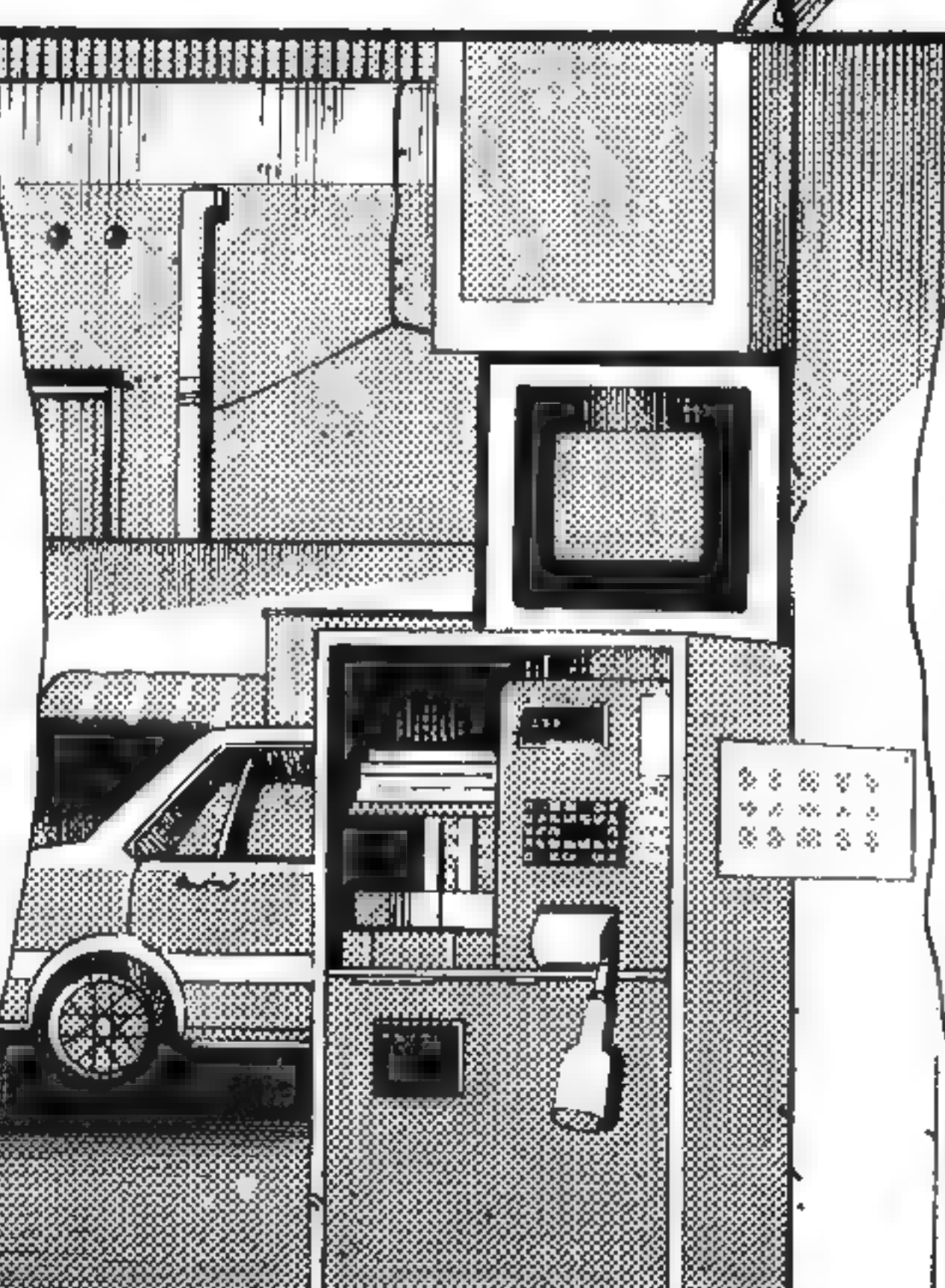
YOU'LL RUIN THE TOFU IF YOU FLING THE CAR AROUND TOO MUCH, WON'T YOU?

WHAT ABOUT WHEN YOU ARE CARRYING TOFU? HOW DO YOU DRIVE THEN?

TAKUMI... LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING.

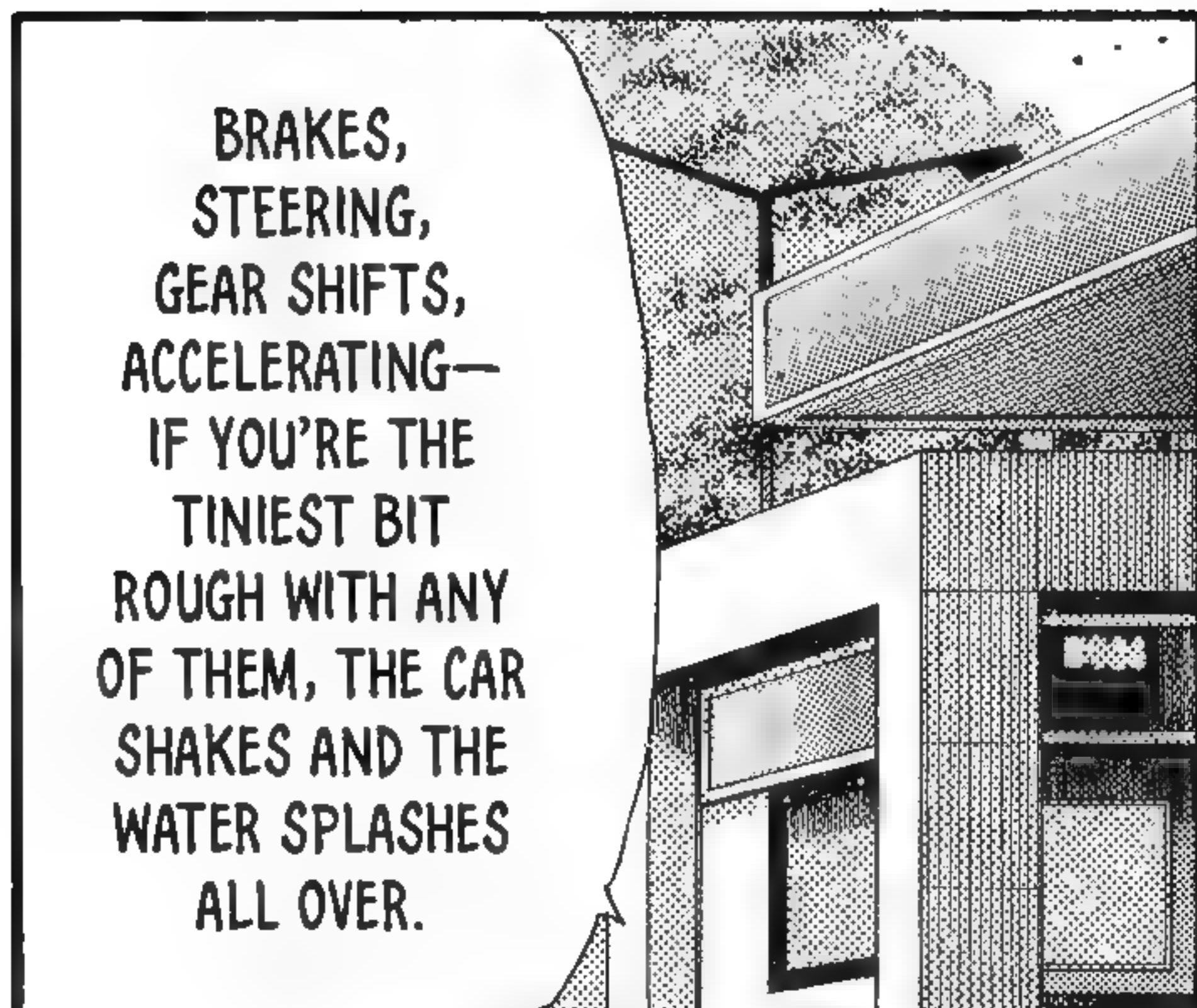


HE TOLD ME THAT AS LONG AS THE WATER DOESN'T SPILL, THEN NO MATTER HOW FAST I'M GOING, THE TOFU WILL BE FINE.



MY DAD ALWAYS PUTS THIS PAPER CUP FULL OF WATER IN THE CUP HOLDER, RIGHT WHERE I CAN SEE IT.





BRAKES,  
STEERING,  
GEAR SHIFTS,  
ACCELERATING—  
IF YOU'RE THE  
TINIEST BIT  
ROUGH WITH ANY  
OF THEM, THE CAR  
SHAKES AND THE  
WATER SPLASHES  
ALL OVER.



AT FIRST  
I JUST  
DID WHAT  
I ALWAYS  
DO, AND  
THE WATER  
WENT  
EVERY-  
WHERE.

I'LL  
BET  
IT  
IS!

IT'S A LOT  
HARDER  
THAN IT  
SOUNDS!



WHAT'S  
THAT  
MEAN?

"SWIRL  
THE  
WATER"?

I  
DON'T  
GET  
IT...



BUT  
IT TOOK ME  
ABOUT THREE  
YEARS BEFORE  
I COULD DO  
THAT.

MY DAD WAS  
ALWAYS SAYING  
I SHOULD LEARN  
TO MAKE THE  
WATER SWIRL  
AROUND IN THE  
CUP.



AFTER THAT,  
GOING DOWN-  
HILL WHEN  
I DON'T HAVE  
TO WORRY  
ABOUT THE CUP  
IS SO SIMPLE  
IT JUST ABOUT  
PUTS ME TO  
SLEEP!

IT WAS  
FIVE WHOLE  
YEARS BEFORE  
I COULD DRIFT  
GOING UPHILL  
WITHOUT  
SPILLING THE  
WATER.



YOU WORK  
YOUR WAY  
UP THE HILL,  
SWIRLING THE  
WATER FROM  
SIDE TO SIDE  
RIGHT AT THE  
LIP.

SURFACE  
TENSION PULLS  
THE WATER  
UP TO THE LIP  
OF THE CUP  
AS YOU COME  
THROUGH THE  
CURVES.



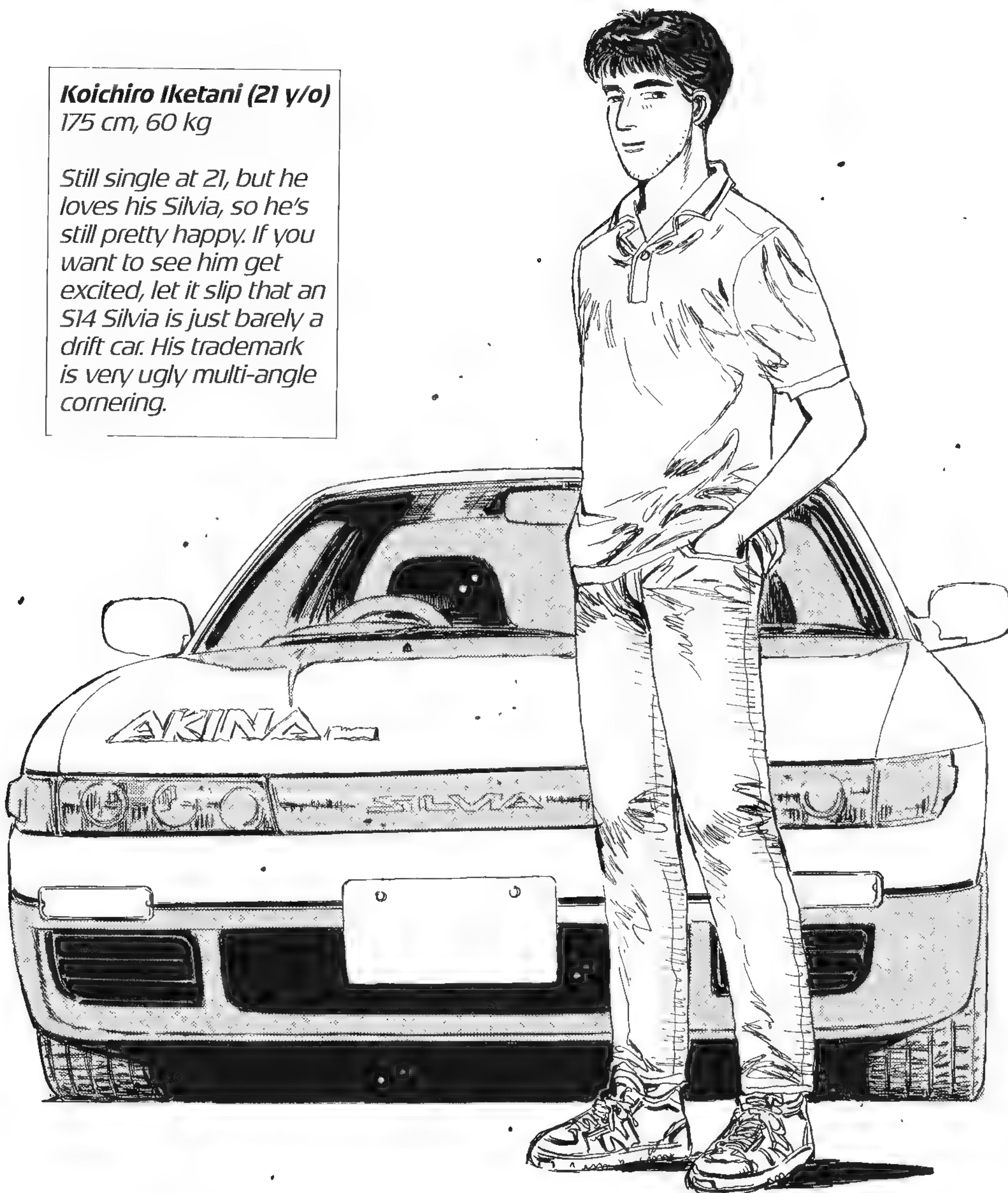




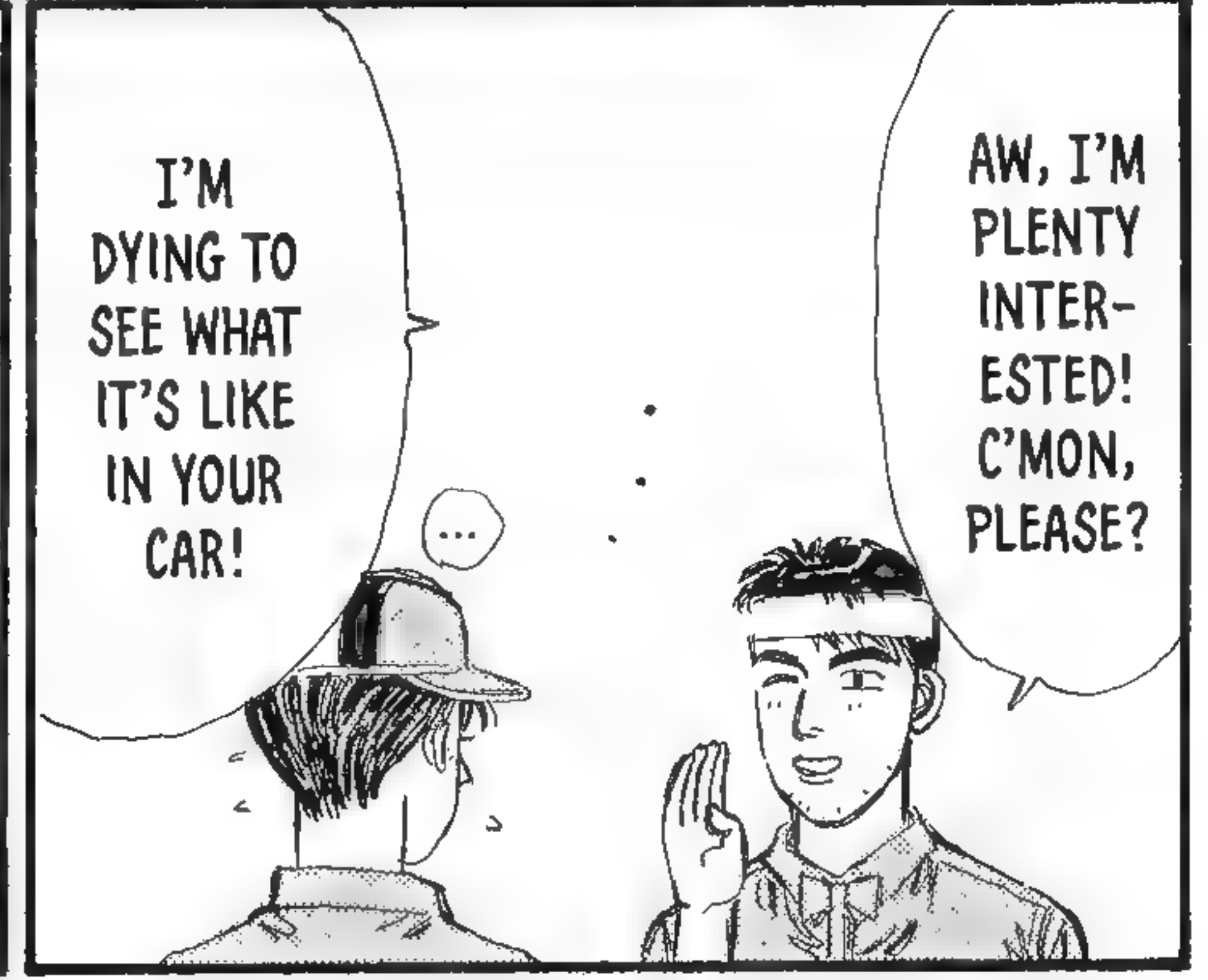
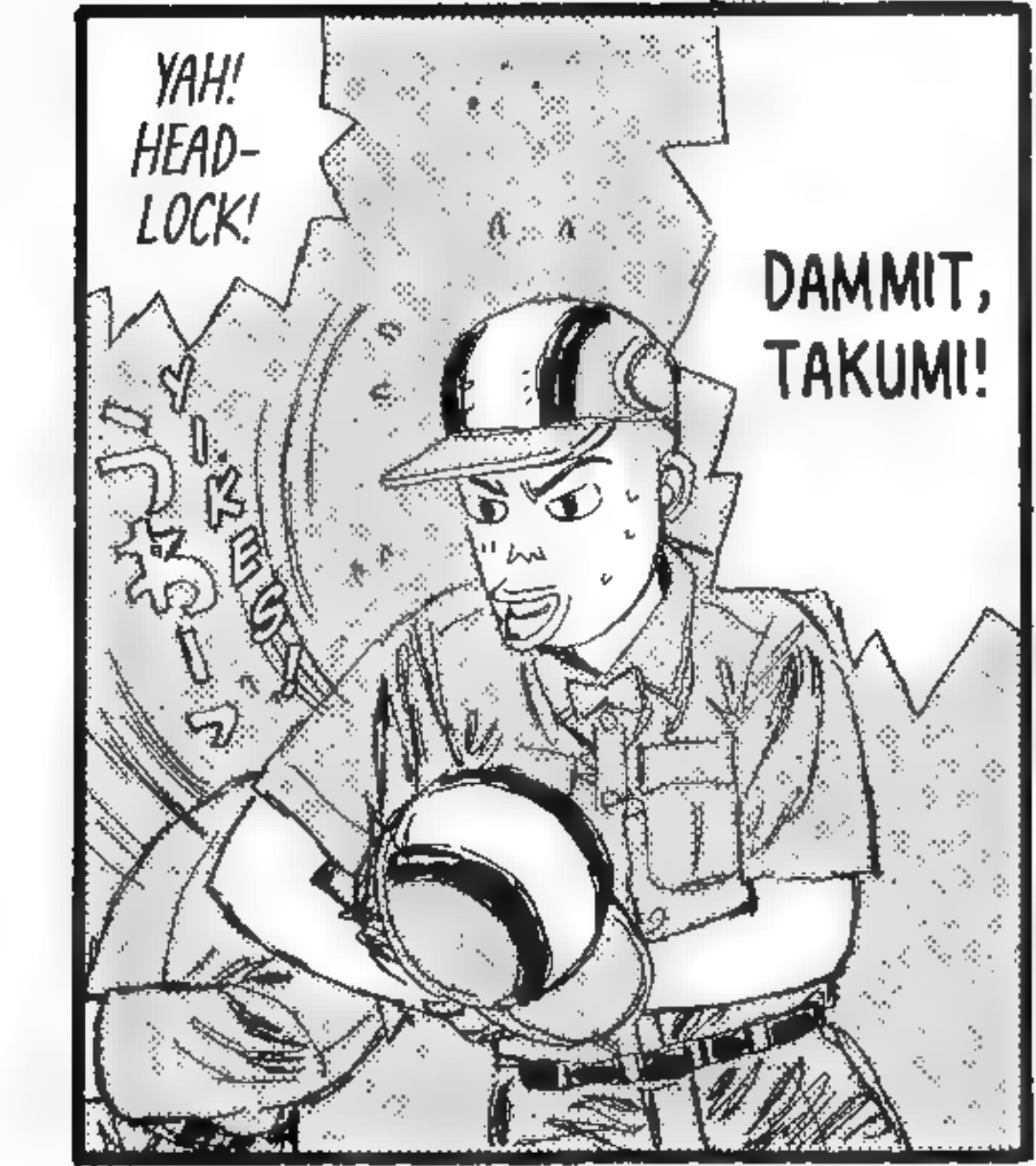
## ► Ch. 16: Iketani's Valuable Lesson

**Koichiro Iketani (21 y/o)**  
175 cm, 60 kg

*Still single at 21, but he loves his Silvia, so he's still pretty happy. If you want to see him get excited, let it slip that an S14 Silvia is just barely a drift car. His trademark is very ugly multi-angle cornering.*











HUH?

TONIGHT?



JUST  
GO RIGHT  
HOME  
AND ASK  
HIM!

SOUNDS  
GREAT!  
THINK  
YOU COULD  
SWING  
TONIGHT?



A  
CUP OF  
WATER!  
YOU'RE  
A CLEVER  
MAN,  
BUNTA.



NOT  
REALLY.

ANY  
GOOD  
NEWS?

SAY, HOW  
WAS THE  
BEACH?



IT'S  
BECAUSE  
YOU MADE  
HIM DRIVE  
WITH THAT  
CUP.

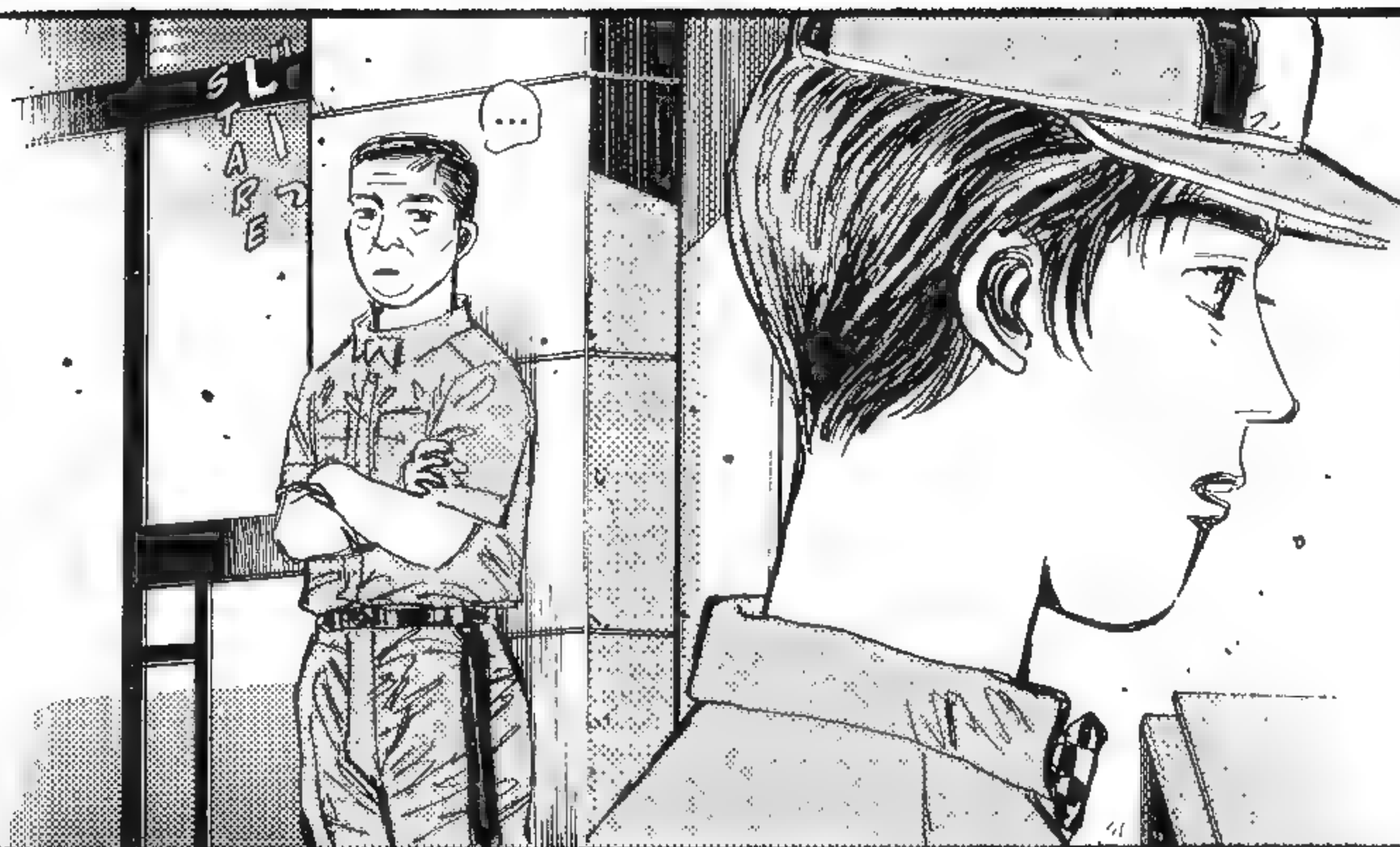
...BUT  
THAT  
WASN'T  
IT AT  
ALL!

I  
ASSUMED  
TAKUMI'S  
SUBLIME  
TECHNIQUE  
CAME FROM  
GOING DOWN  
AKINA OVER  
AND OVER...

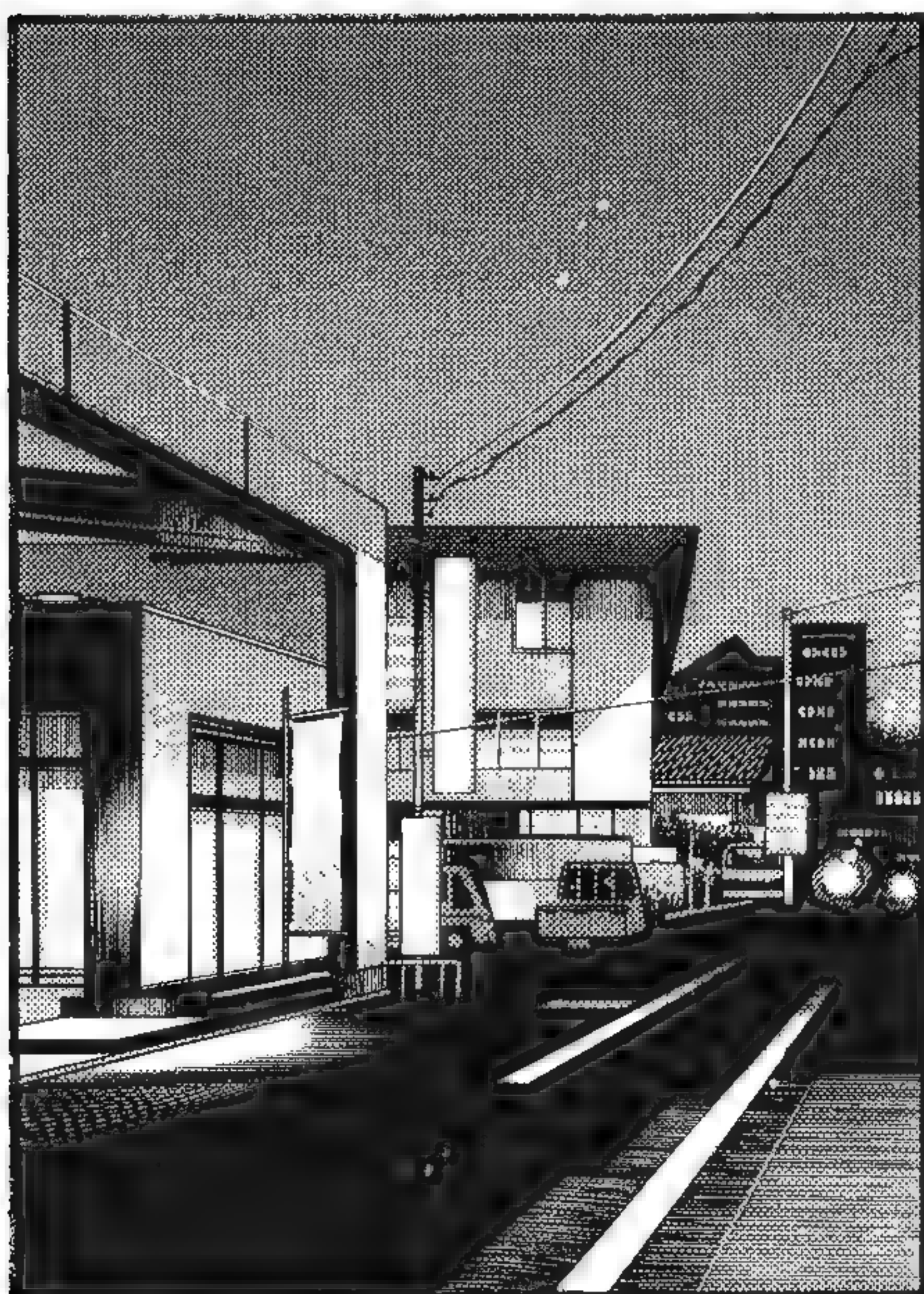




TO  
DRIVE WITHOUT  
SPILLING A DROP  
FROM THAT CUP, HE'D  
NEED TO INTERNALIZE  
ABSOLUTE CONTROL  
OVER EVERY SLIGHT  
SHIFT OF THE CAR'S  
WEIGHT.



WEIGHT  
TRANSFER—  
THAT'S THE  
REAL KEY  
TO CAR  
CONTROL!



YOU'RE  
ALWAYS  
ONE STEP  
AHEAD!



I  
HAVE TO  
HAND IT  
TO YOU,  
BUNTA...

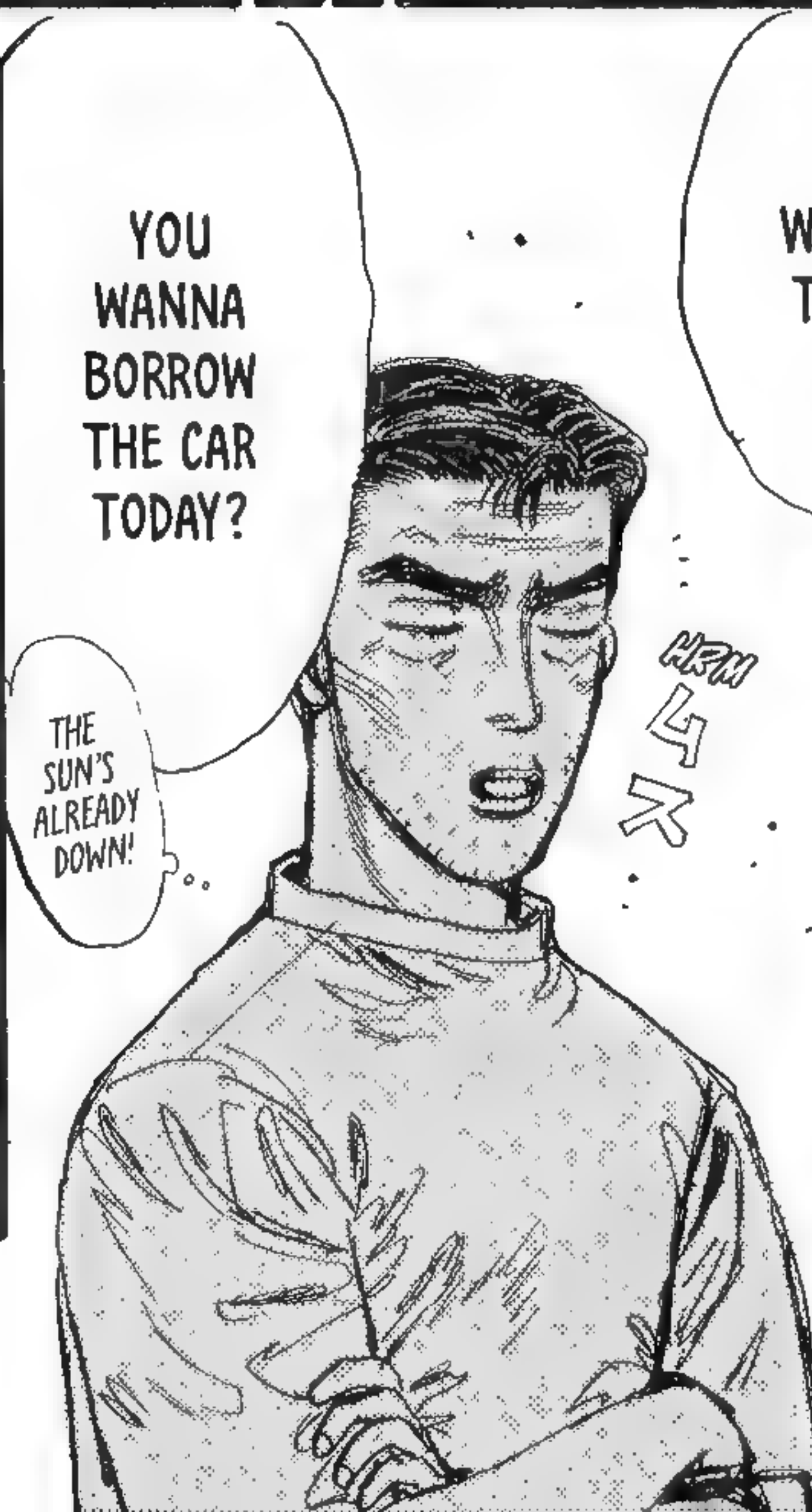
HEY,  
IT'S COOL.  
IT'S NOT  
A BIG  
DEAL.

I  
FIGURED  
NOT.

YOU  
WANNA  
BORROW  
THE CAR  
TODAY?

THE  
SUN'S  
ALREADY  
DOWN!

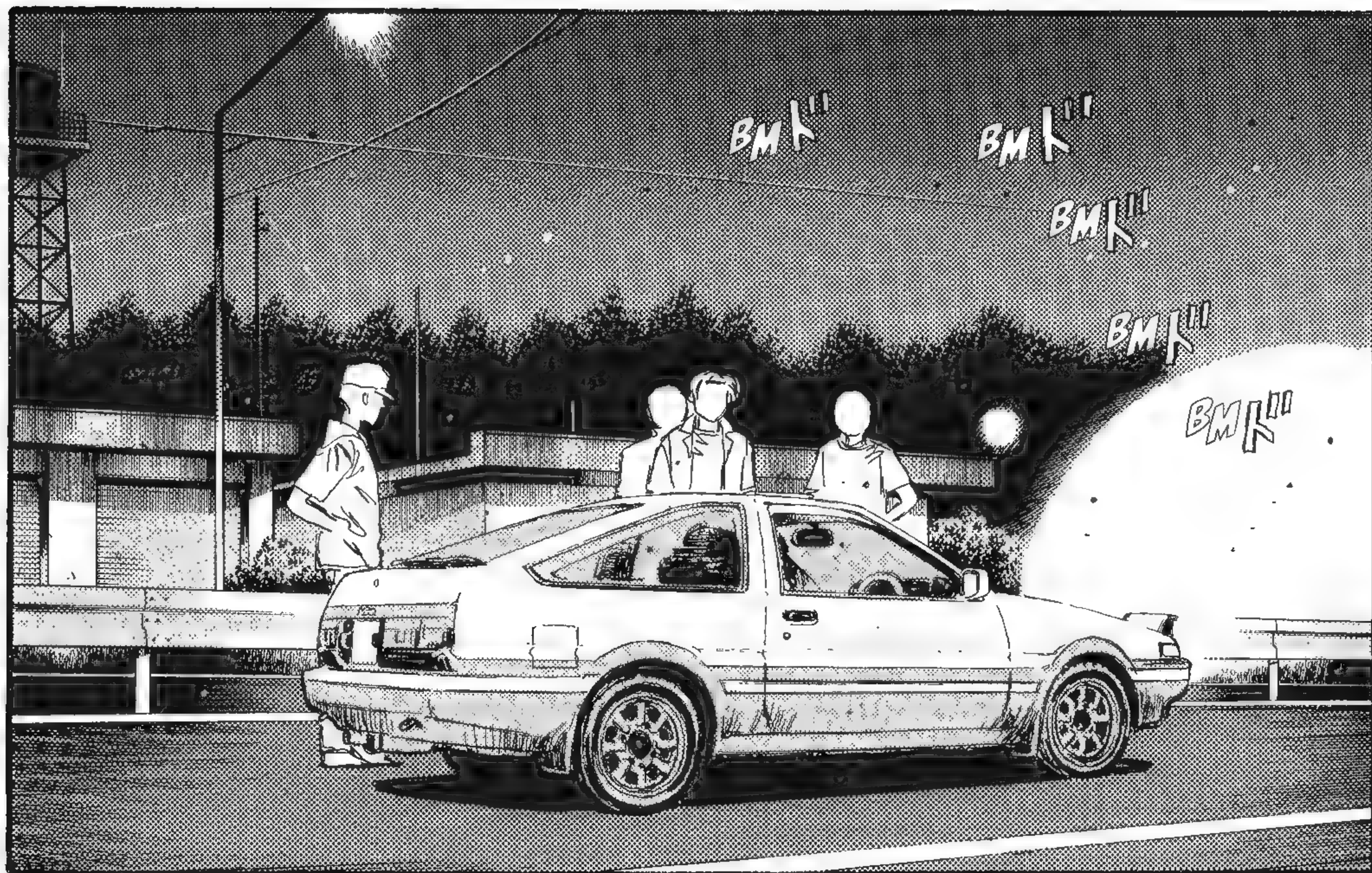
WHAT'S  
THAT?



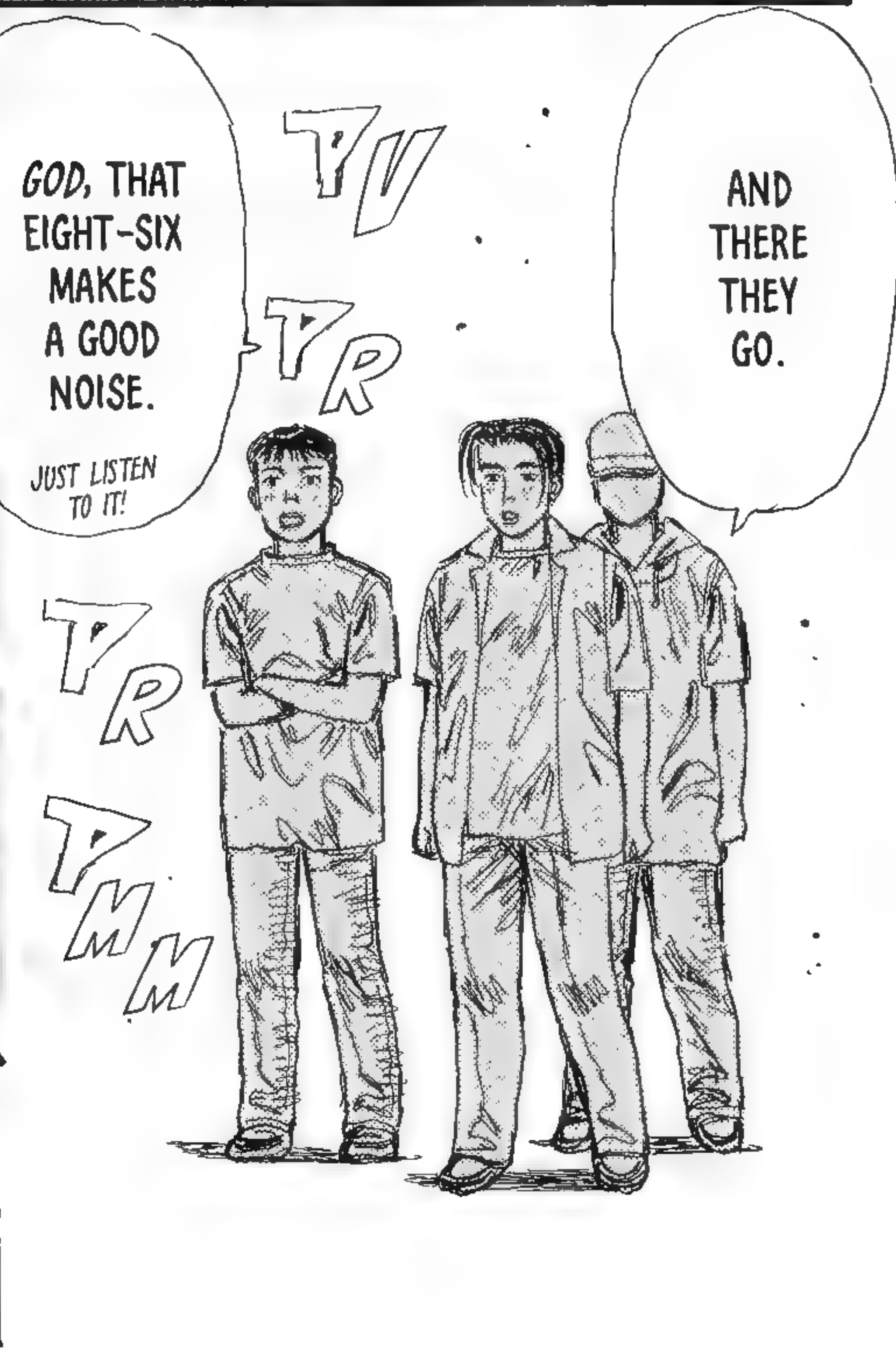
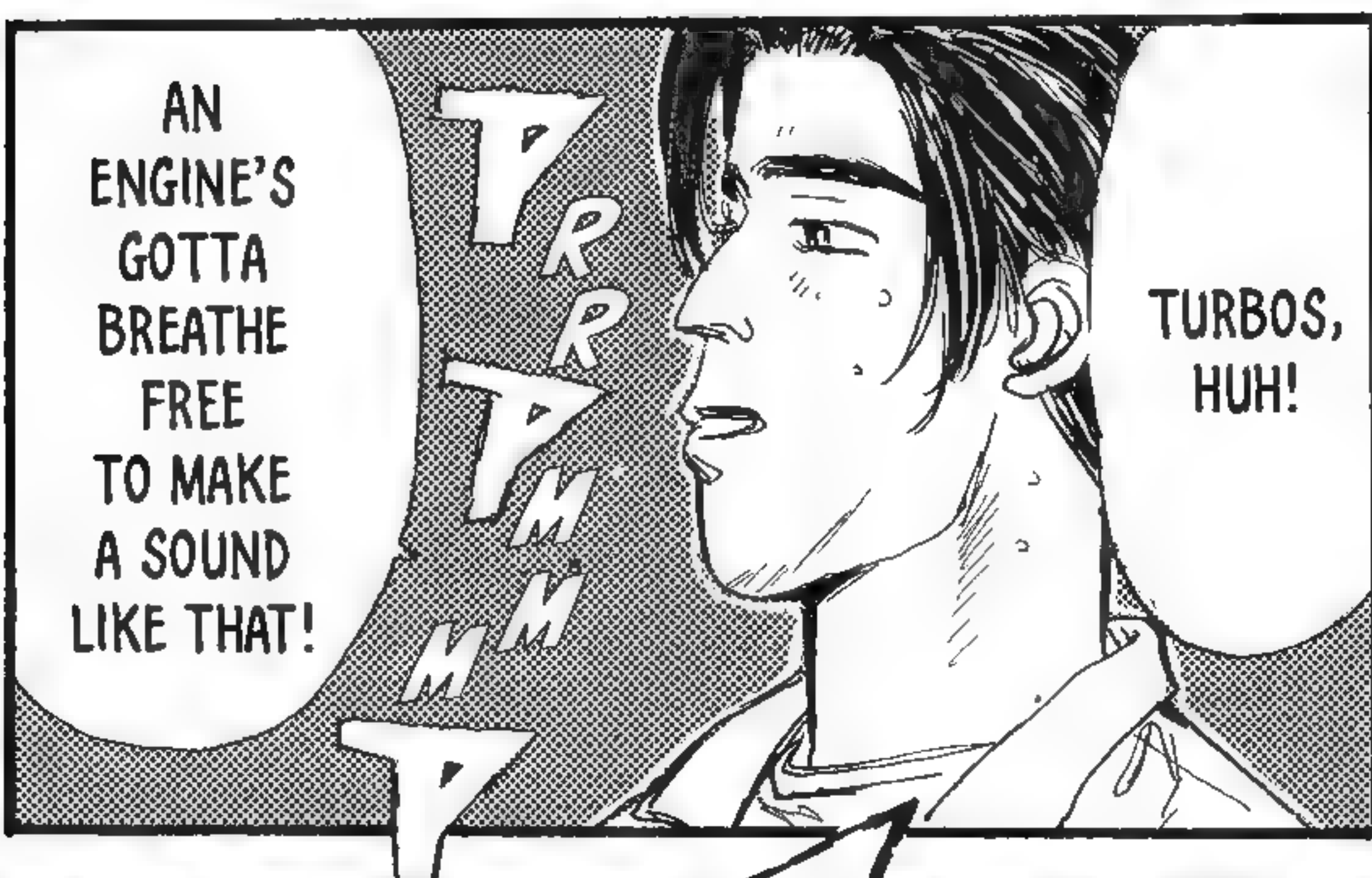
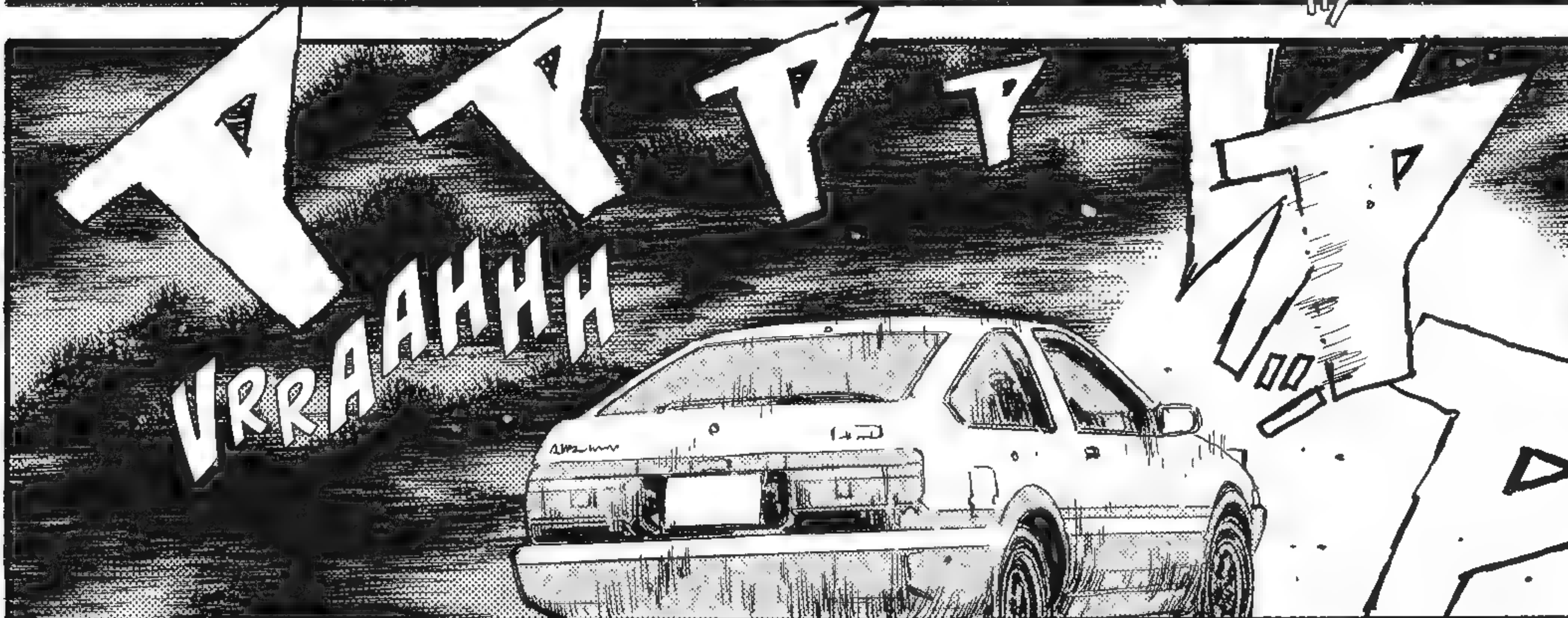




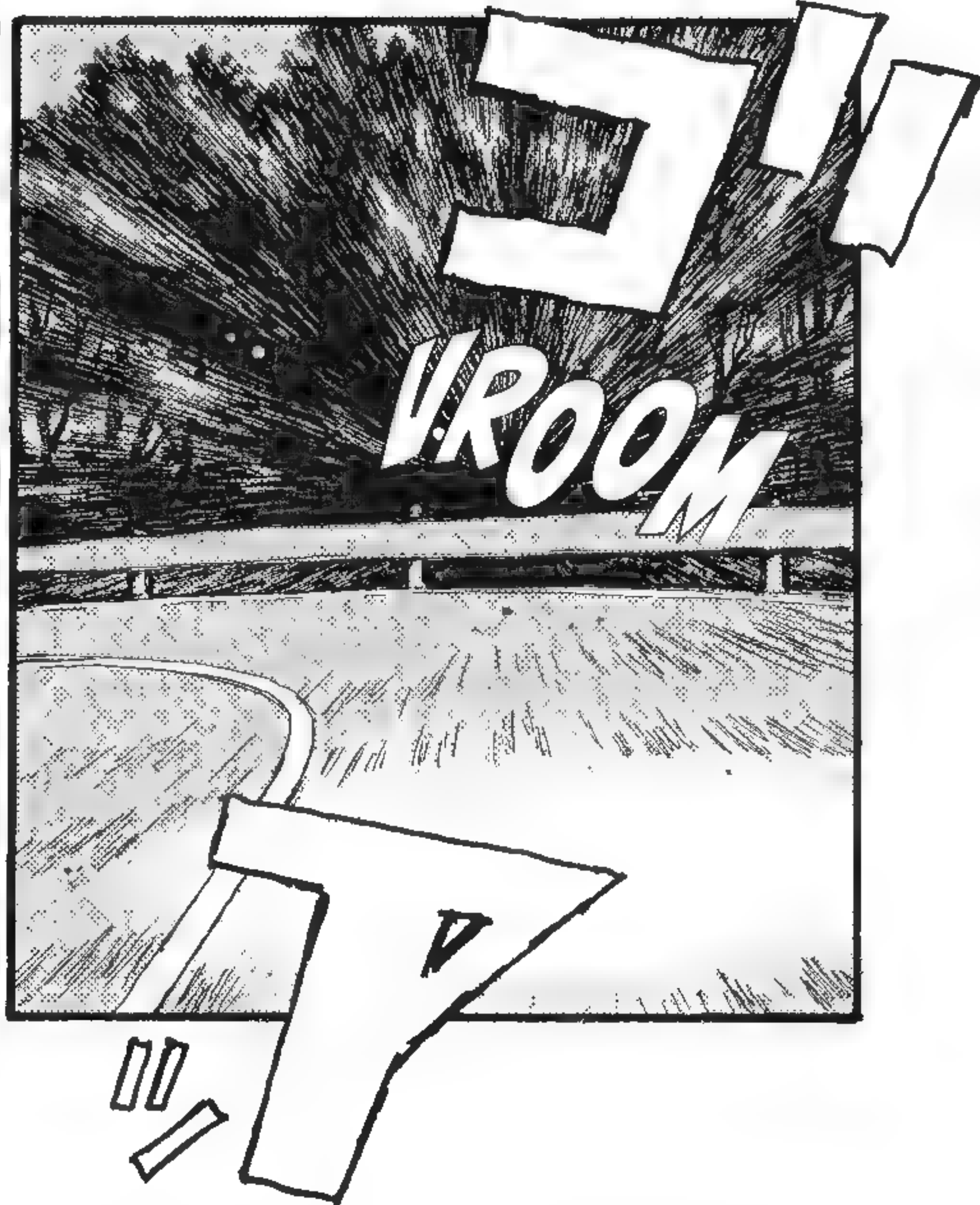
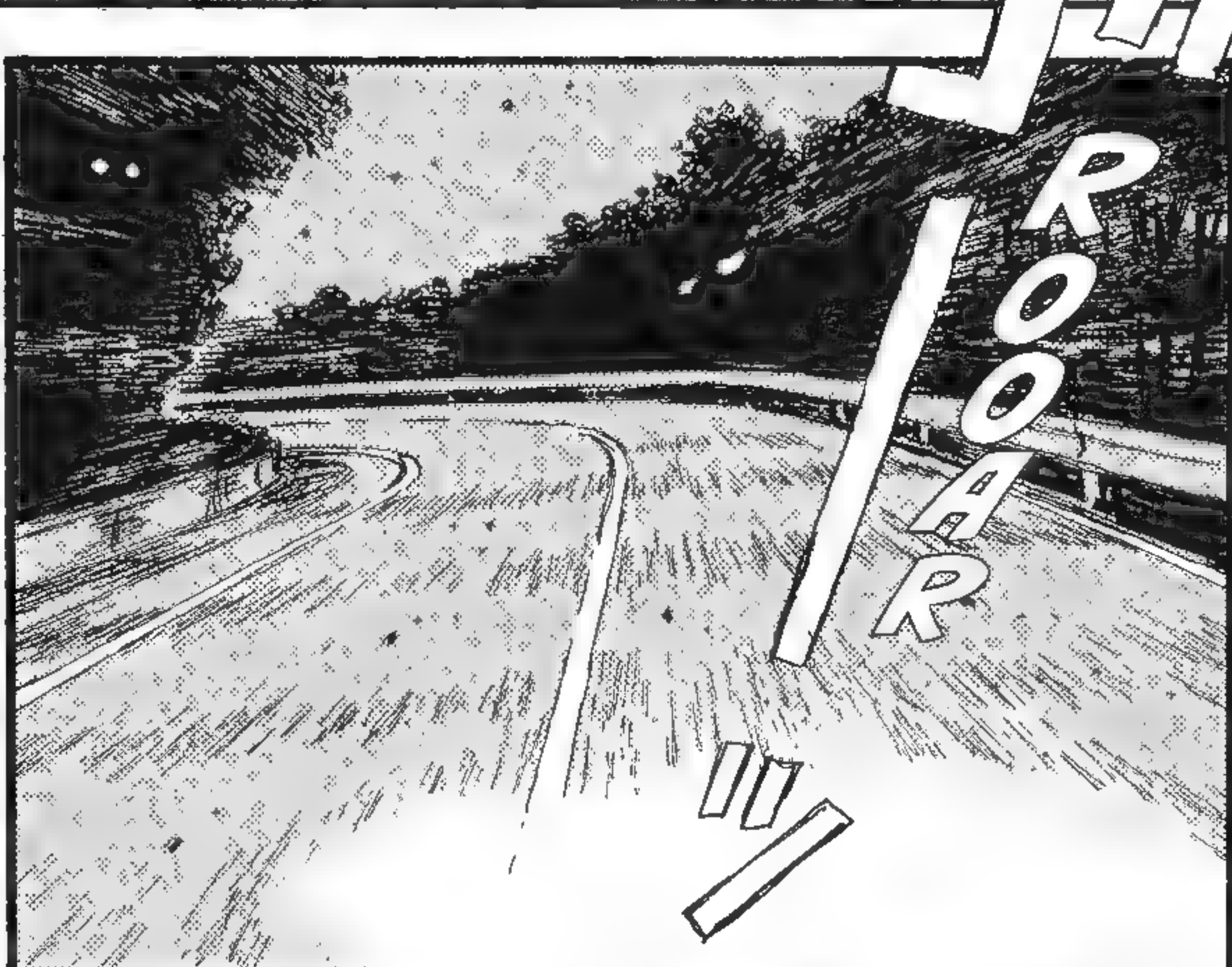














SHOOK

THE EIGHT-SIX COMES INTO THE CORNER AT A SPEED THAT WOULD BE SUICIDAL IN IKETANI'S HANDS!

...THEY SAY  
A MAN'S LIFE  
FLASHES  
BEFORE HIS  
EYES.

IN THE  
MOMENTS  
BEFORE  
DEATH...

RIP

...THEY SAY  
A MAN'S LIFE  
FLASHES  
BEFORE HIS  
EYES.

IN THE  
MOMENTS  
BEFORE  
DEATH...

RIP

**EEEE-  
YAAAAA-  
ARRRGH-  
HH!**

**TAKUMI WAITS  
SO LONG TO HIT  
THE BRAKES THAT  
IKETANI ASSUMES  
THEY MUST BE  
BROKEN!**

**I'M  
GONNA  
DIE!!**

**EEEE-  
YAAAAA-  
ARRRGH-  
HH!**

**TAKUMI WAITS  
SO LONG TO HIT  
THE BRAKES THAT  
IKETANI ASSUMES  
THEY MUST BE  
BROKEN!**

**I'M  
GONNA  
DIE!!**

**EEEE-  
YAAAAA-  
ARRRGH-  
HH!**

**TAKUMI WAITS  
SO LONG TO HIT  
THE BRAKES THAT  
IKETANI ASSUMES  
THEY MUST BE  
BROKEN!**

**I'M  
GONNA  
DIE!!**

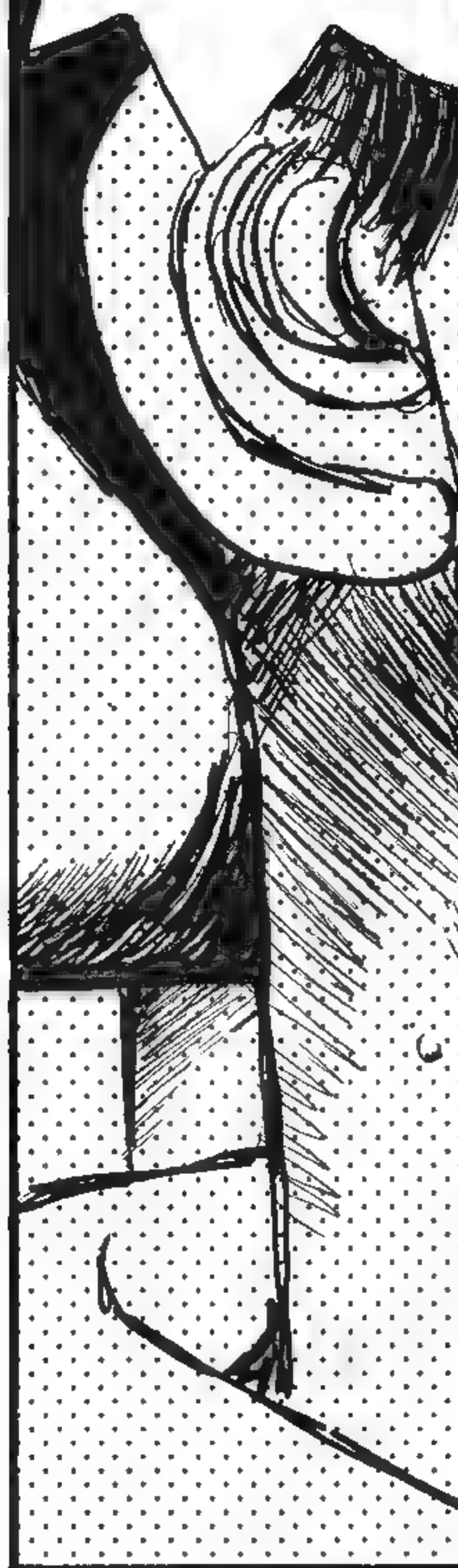


TWENTY-ONE YEARS  
COMPRESSED INTO THE  
SPACE OF INSTANTS,  
EVERY MOMENT AS  
CLEAR AS THE DAY IT  
HAPPENED.

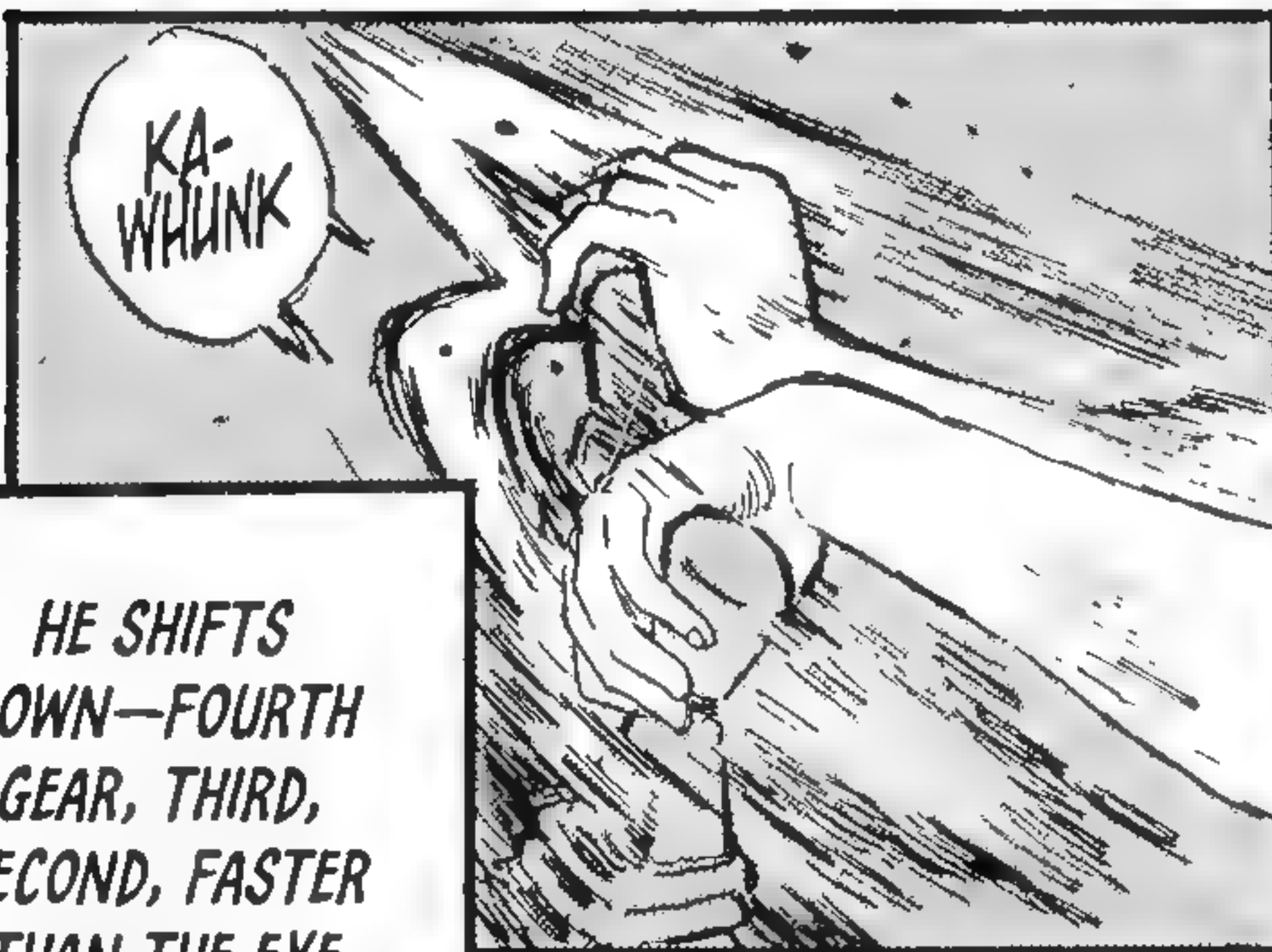
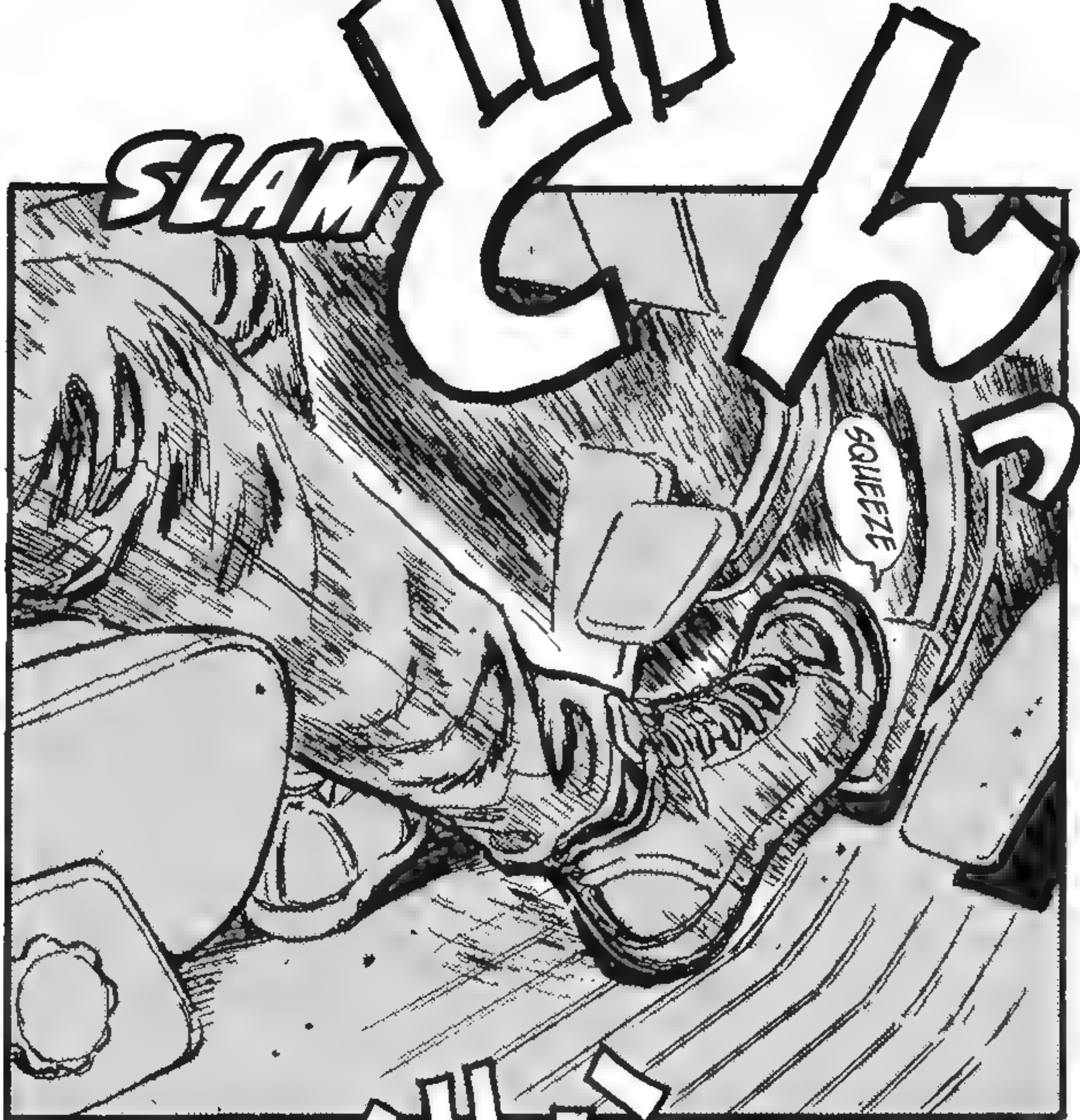
(THAT'S HOW HE FELT,  
ANYWAY.)

IT  
CERTAINLY  
DID FOR  
IKETANI.

BUT  
EXPECTATIONS  
OF HIS DEATH  
WERE GREATLY  
EXAGGERATED!







HE SHIFTS  
DOWN—FOURTH  
GEAR, THIRD,  
SECOND, FASTER  
THAN THE EYE  
CAN FOLLOW.

(ALL THE STUFF ON  
THE LAST COUPLE PAGES  
TAKES PLACE IN ABOUT  
0.5 SECONDS.)

TAKUMI SLAMS  
HIS FOOT ON  
THE BRAKE LIKE  
IT KILLED HIS  
PARENTS. THE  
REAR TIRES,  
SUDDENLY  
UNLOADED,  
BREAK FREE!





...NEEDING ONLY  
A TOUCH OF COUNTER-  
STEER TO SUPPRESS THE  
RUNNING RESISTANCE!  
AND OF COURSE, THE  
ACCELERATOR FLAT TO  
THE FLOOR!

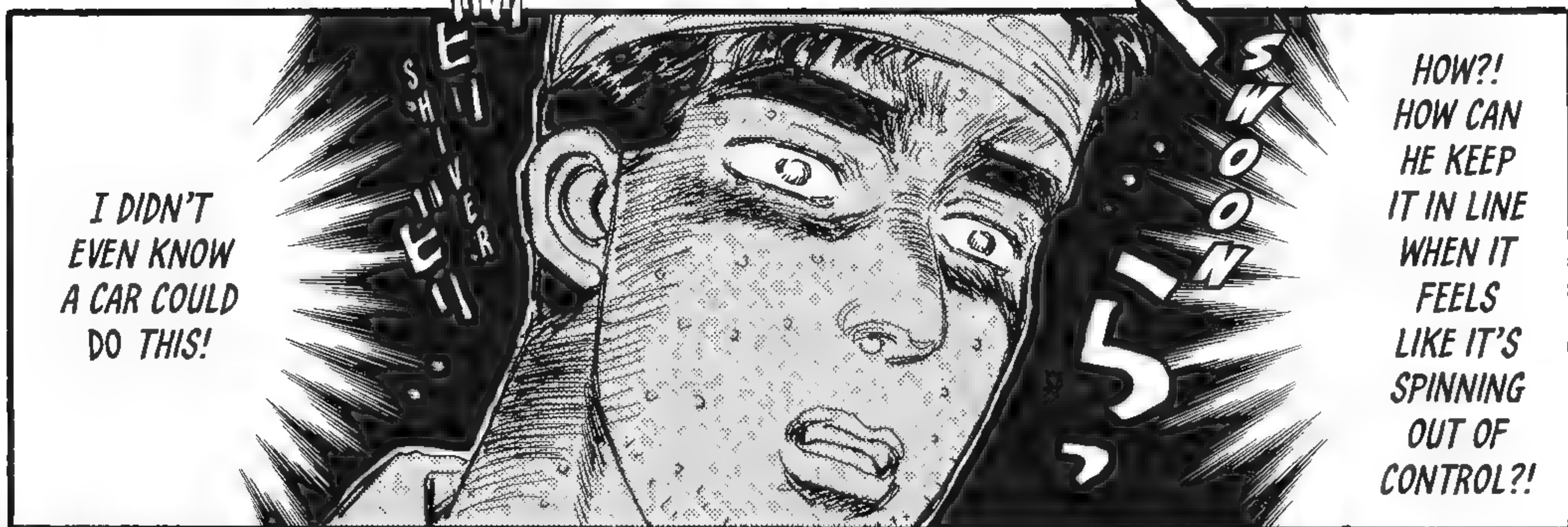
NICE  
WORK,  
TAKUMI!

THEY ENTER  
A PERFECT  
FOUR-WHEEL  
DRIFT...

SCREE  
EESH  
HNN-  
NGH!





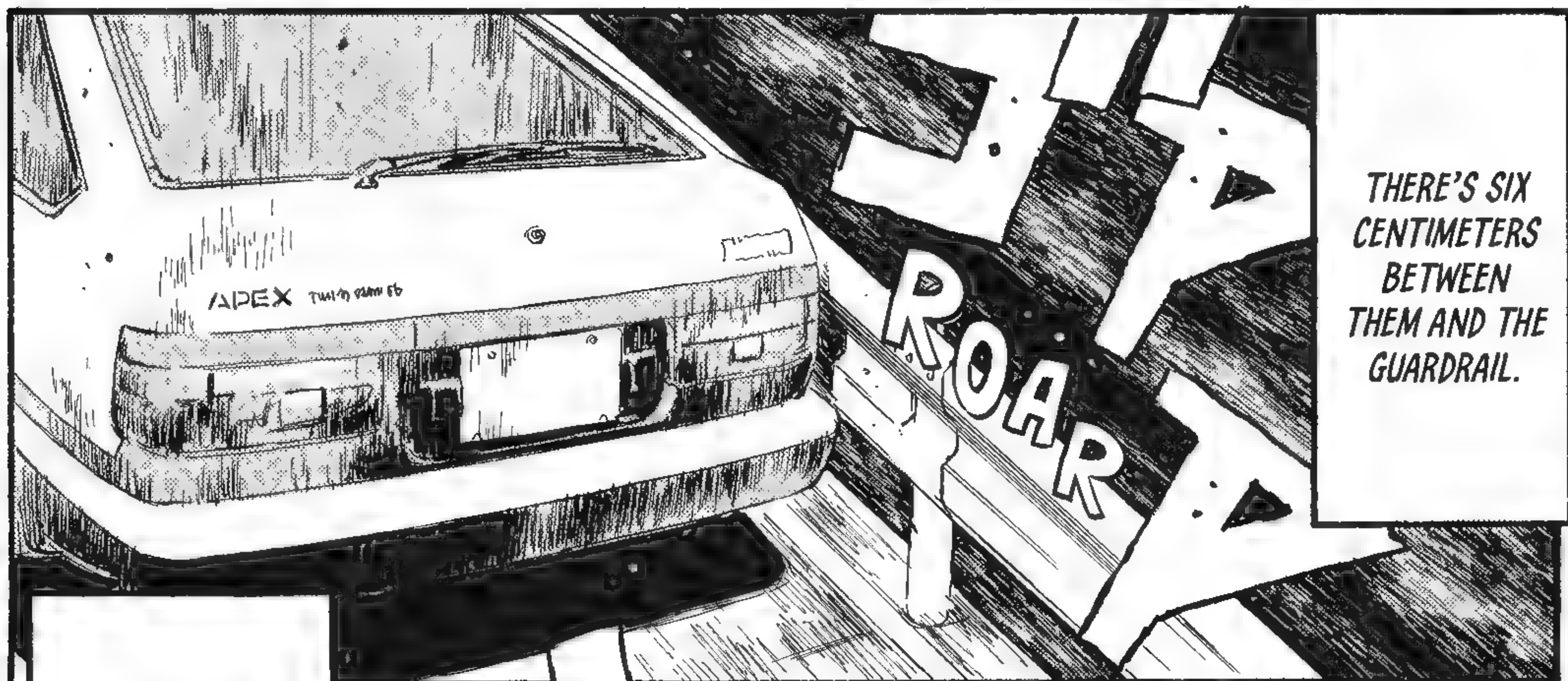


I DIDN'T  
EVEN KNOW  
A CAR COULD  
DO THIS!

SHIVER  
SHIVER

SWOON  
SWOON

HOW?!  
HOW CAN  
HE KEEP  
IT IN LINE  
WHEN IT  
FEELS  
LIKE IT'S  
SPINNING  
OUT OF  
CONTROL?!

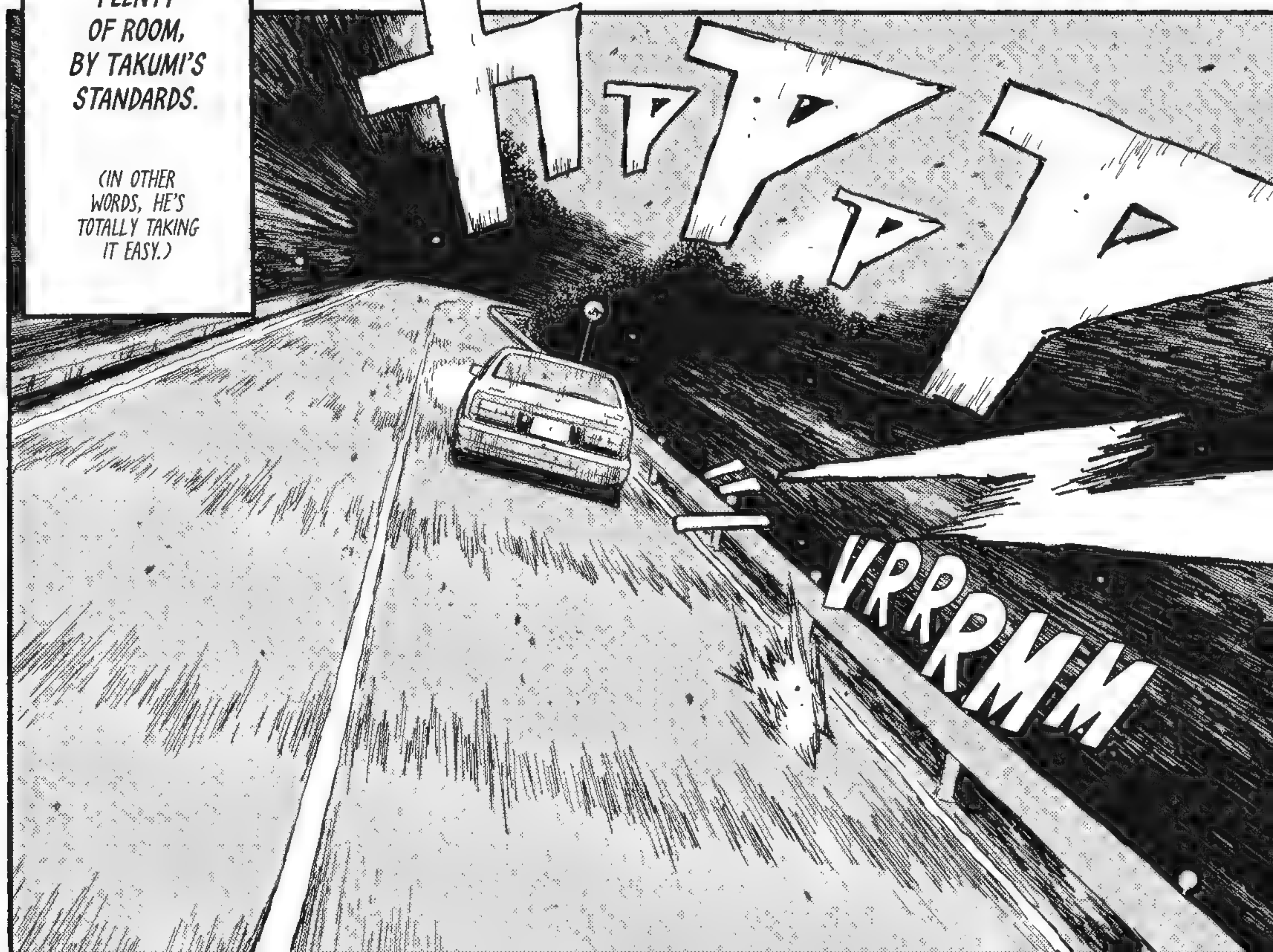


THERE'S SIX  
CENTIMETERS  
BETWEEN  
THEM AND THE  
GUARDRAIL.

ROAR

PLENTY  
OF ROOM,  
BY TAKUMI'S  
STANDARDS.

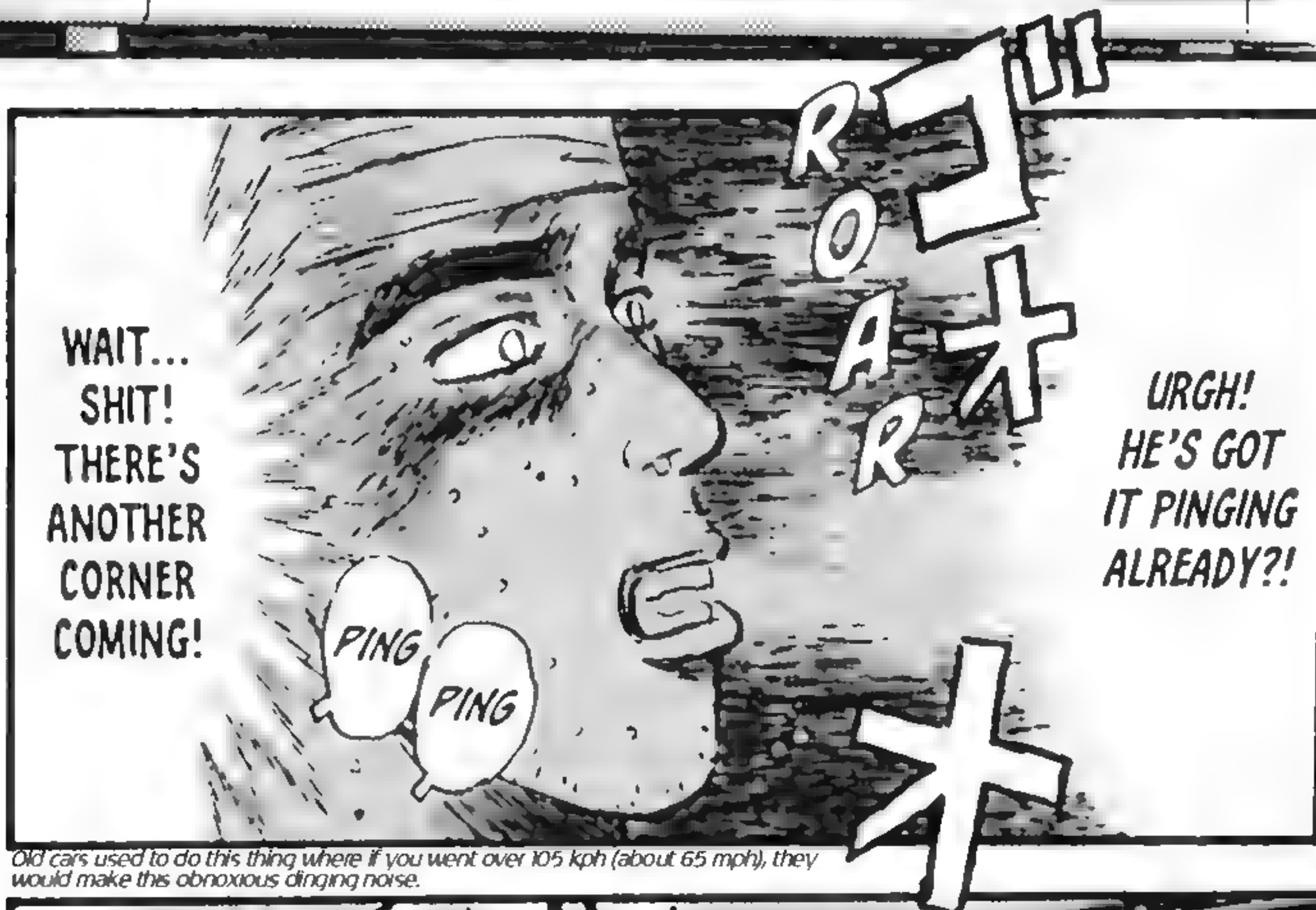
(IN OTHER  
WORDS, HE'S  
TOTALLY TAKING  
IT EASY.)



TA TA TA

VRRRRN









AND IKETANI, IN THE PASSENGER SEAT, WILL BE THE FIRST TO GET THERE!

ONCE AGAIN DRIFTING WITH ALL FOUR WHEELS, THE EIGHT-SIX SEEMS TO BE SPEEDING STRAIGHT TOWARD THE BECKONING GUARDRAIL!



THEY ENTER THE TURN AT A SHARPER ANGLE THAN IKETANI HAS EVER EXPERIENCED. THE LATERAL GEES SLAM HIM TO THE SIDE AND THREATEN TO MAKE HIM BLACK OUT. ONLY SHEER TERROR IS KEEPING HIM ALERT NOW!





YOU KNOW  
THE ORDER  
HERE GOES  
GUARDRAIL,  
DOOR, ME,  
RIGHT?!

SCREECH

GAAAH!

HE JUST  
KISSES THE  
GUARD-  
RAIL WITH  
THE REAR  
BUMPER.

BUMP

HERE,  
TAKUMI  
DECIDES  
TO GIVE  
HIS RIDER  
A LITTLE  
TREAT.



...AND  
TAKUMI'S  
EIGHT-SIX  
HOWLS OUT  
OF THE TURN  
AT FULL  
THROTTLE!

THE NUDGE  
CAUSES AN  
EQUALLY SMALL  
REACTION, BUT  
IT'S PLENTY  
TO GIVE THE  
REAR TIRES  
BACK THEIR  
TRACTION...



THE SHOCK  
IS EVER SO  
SLIGHT, BUT  
IT'S MORE  
THAN ENOUGH  
FOR IKETANI  
TO FEEL IT.

VRRR  
MINN





HOW CAN  
HE GET IT  
PINGING  
ON SUCH  
A SHORT  
STRAIGHT?!

UGH...  
AGAIN?  
SHUT UP!



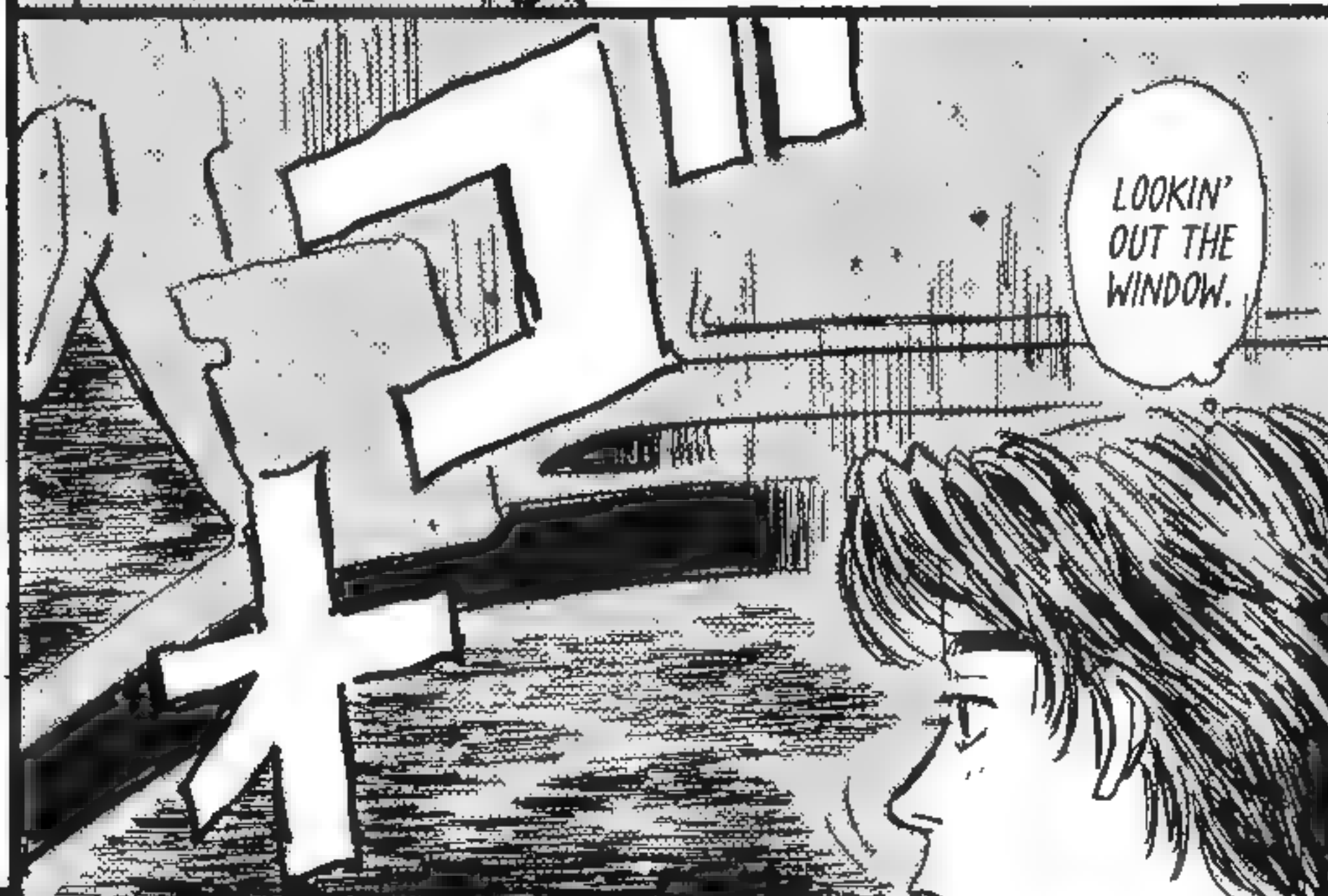
...AND IS  
AMAZED  
BY WHAT  
HE SEES!



IKETANI  
MUSTERS  
HIS SLIPPING  
CONSCIOUSNESS  
TO LOOK OVER  
AT TAKUMI...

GLANCE. PING  
PING

THE  
CONTRAST WITH THE  
SCENERY WHIPPING BY  
IS STAGGERING—TAKUMI  
DOESN'T LOOK RELAXED  
SO MUCH AS DOWNRIGHT  
BORED!



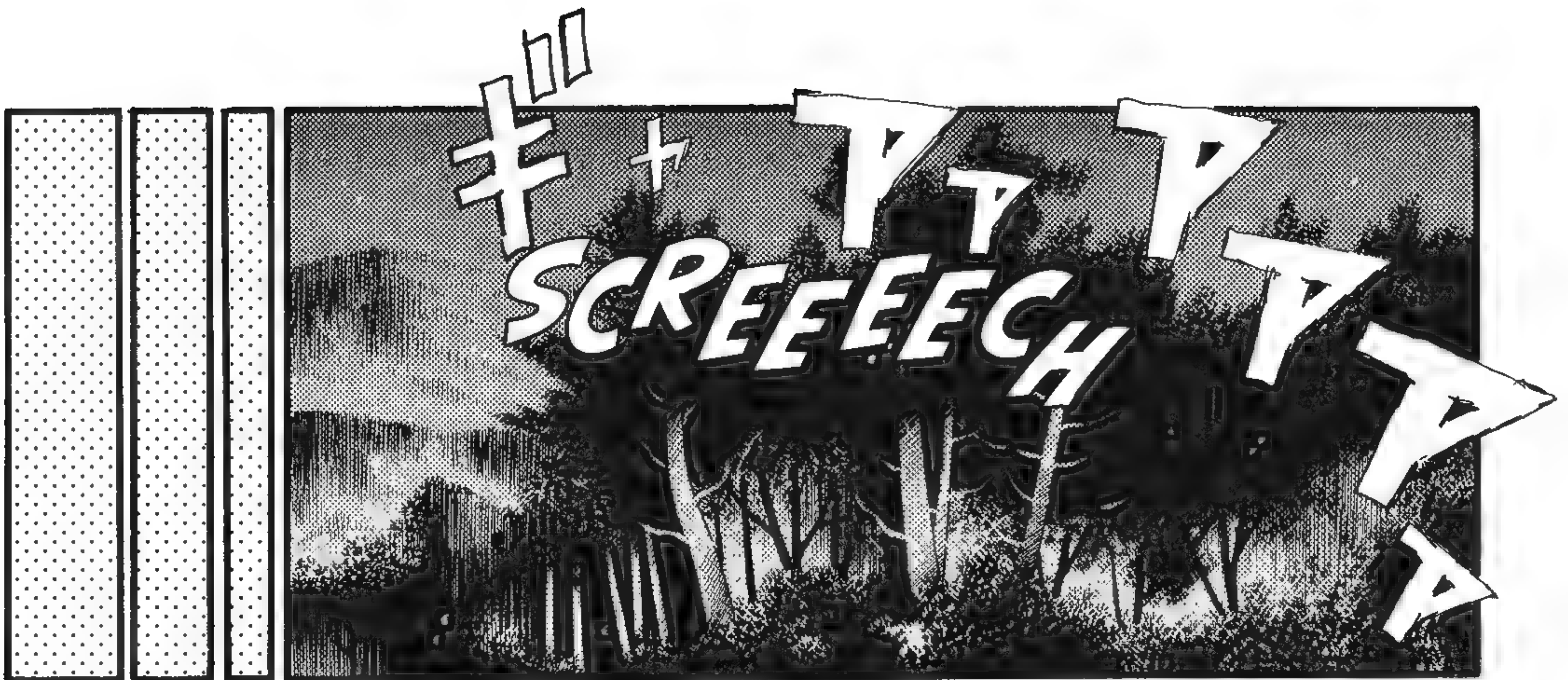
LOOKIN'  
OUT THE  
WINDOW.

IT'S A DRIVER  
HOLDING THE  
WHEEL WITH  
ABSOLUTE  
INDIFFERENCE.



ROOOAR

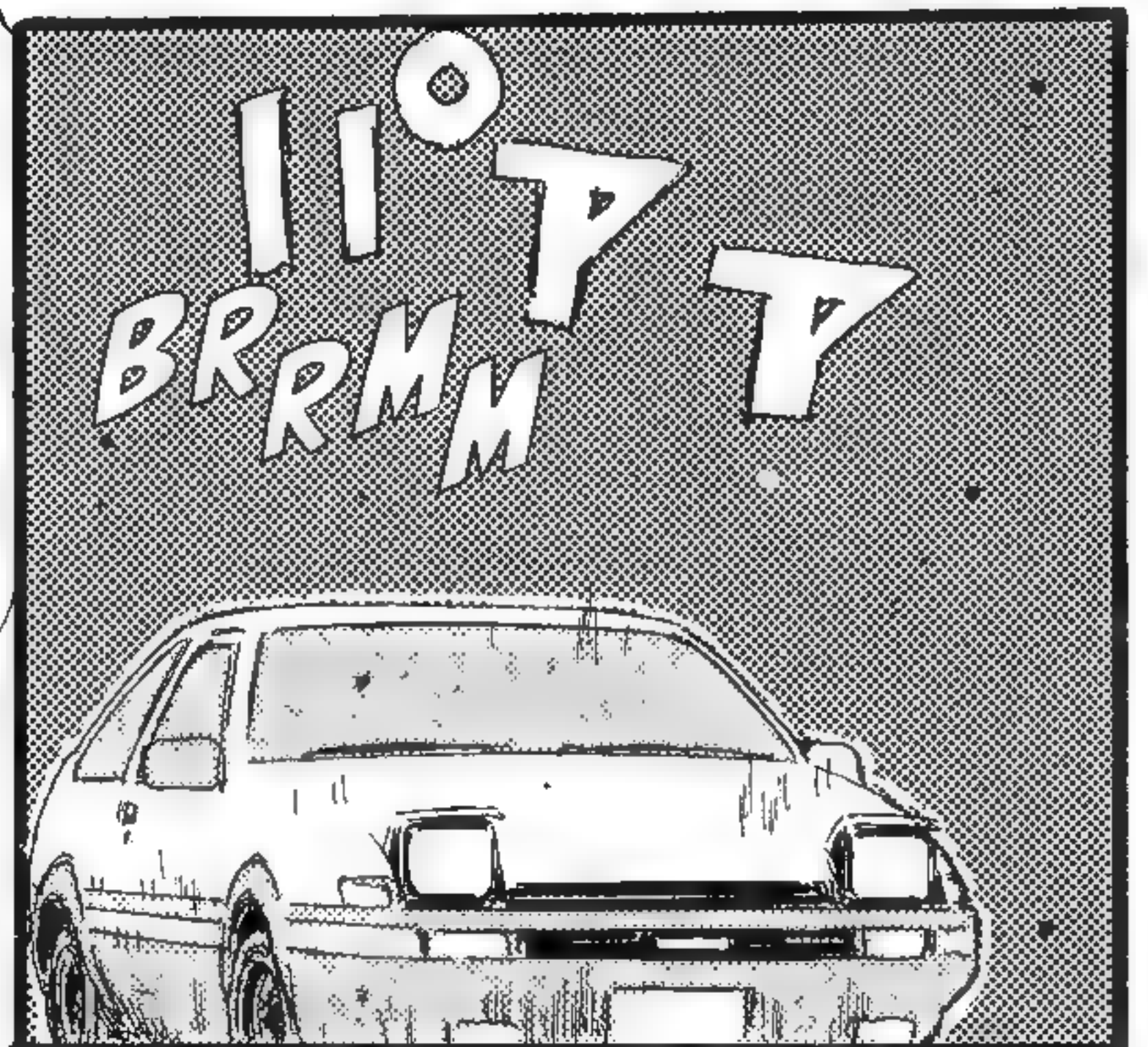




I HOPE  
EVERYTHING'S  
OKAY. THAT WAS  
WAY TOO FAST  
TO GET TO THE  
FOOT AND  
BACK.



HEY...  
THEY'RE  
BACK  
ALREADY.



A NEW LEGEND  
WAS CARVING  
ITSELF ON THE  
SIDE OF MOUNT  
AKINA.

DING  
DING



THAT TIME  
IKETANI FAINTED  
AFTER THREE  
CORNERS ON THE  
DOWNHILL OF  
TERROR.

(AS IT WOULD COME  
TO BE CALLED.)

GEE, HE  
LOOKS...  
PEACE-  
FUL.



AHHHH!

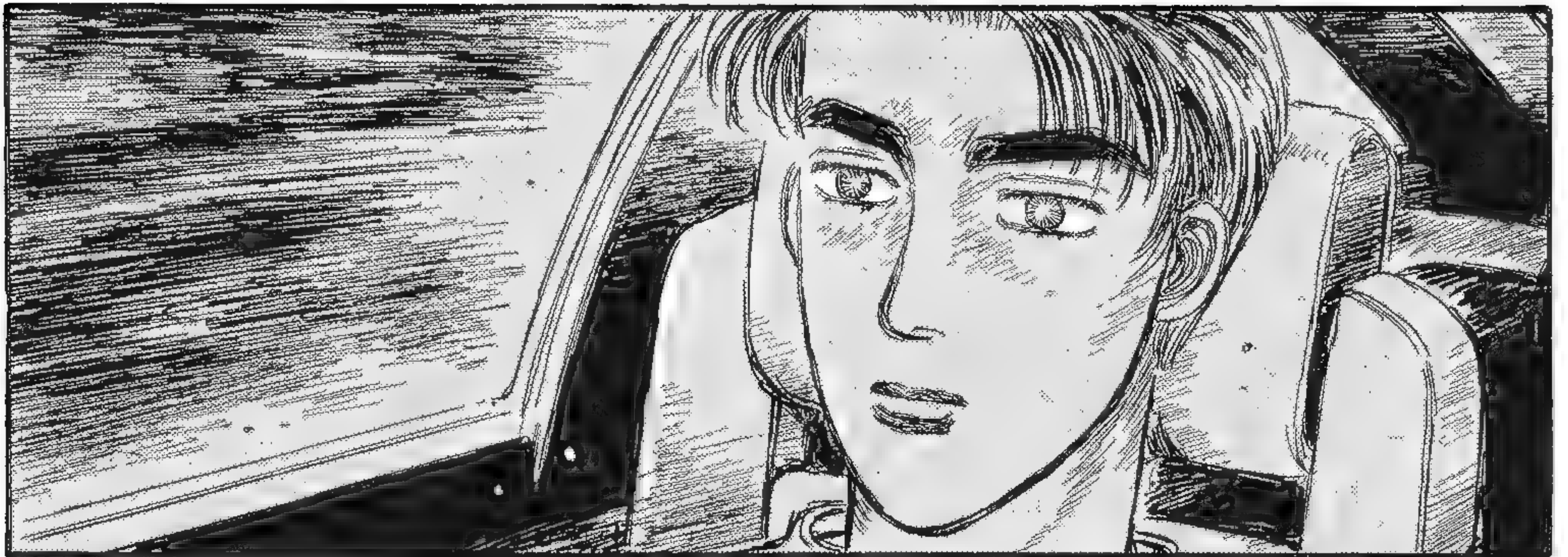




▶ *Ch. 17: A New Challenger!*



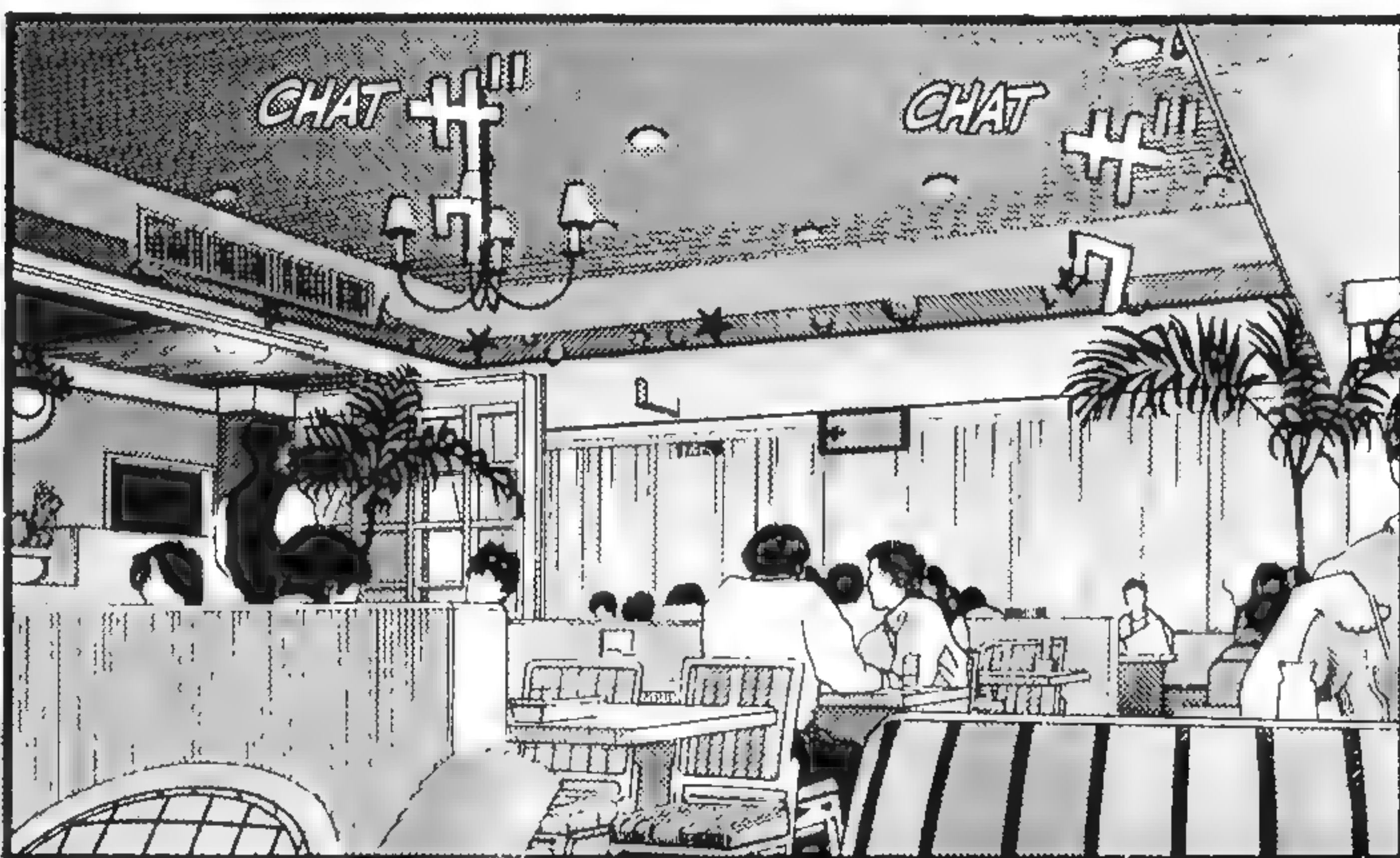
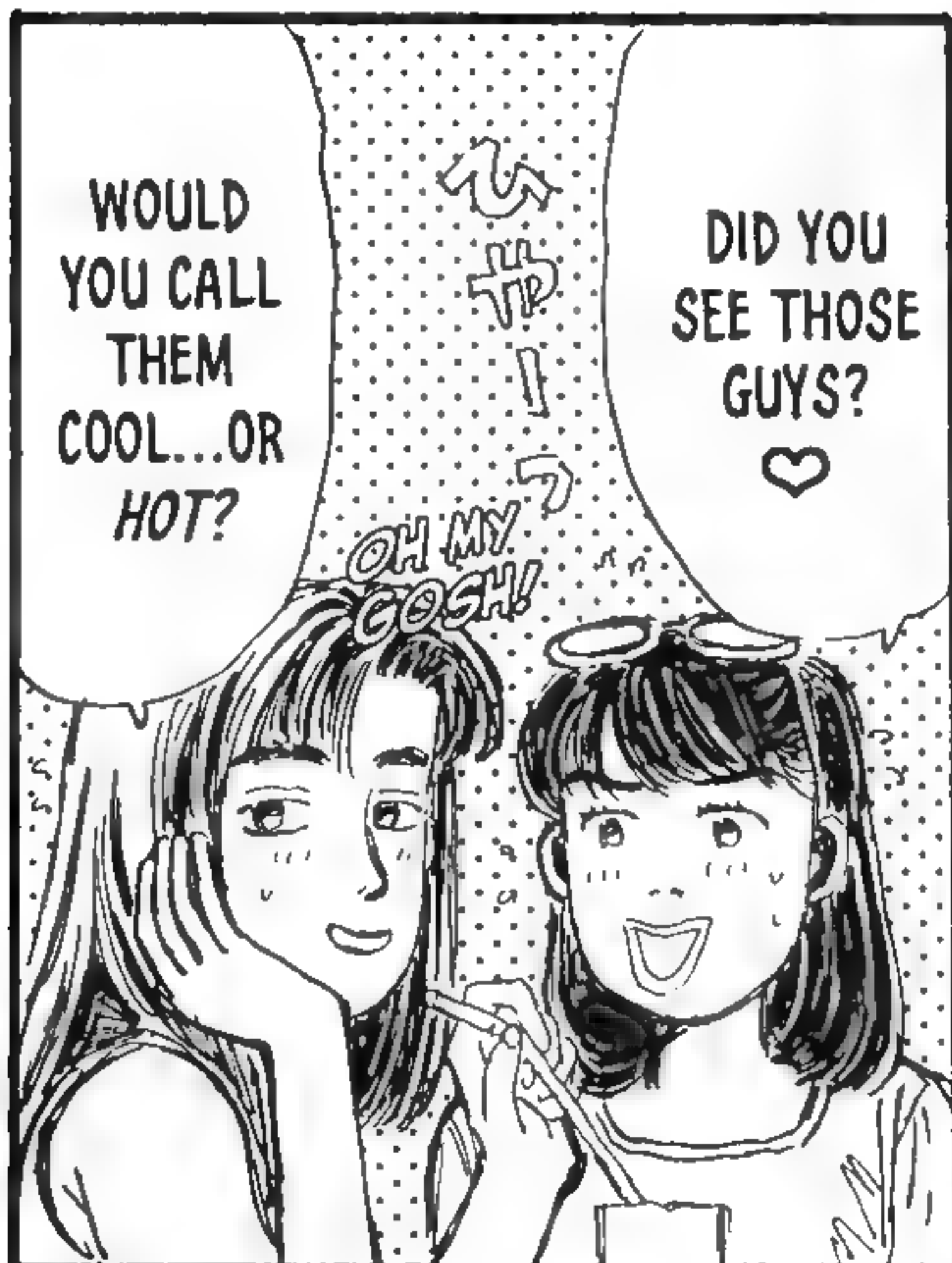




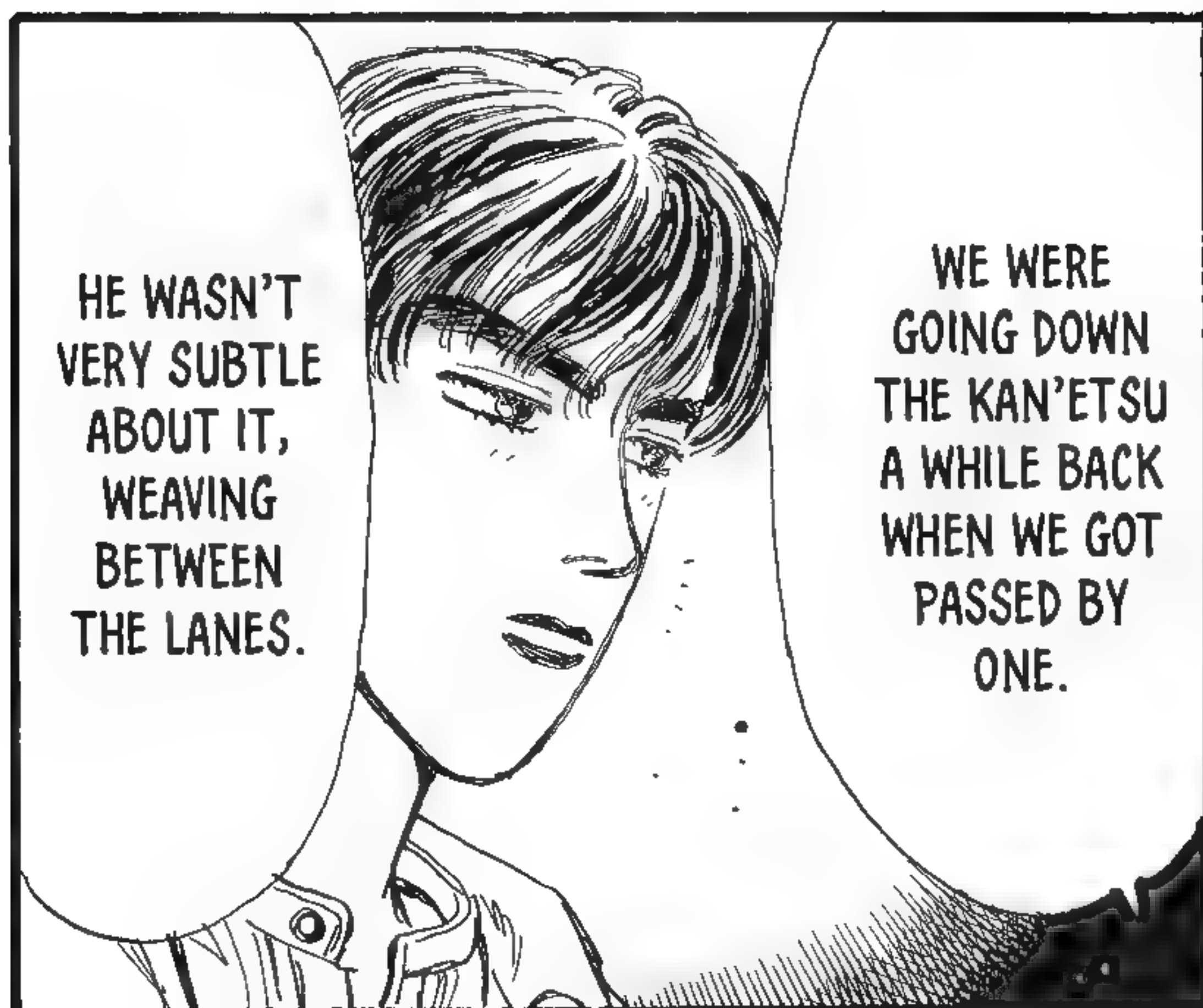












HE WASN'T  
VERY SUBTLE  
ABOUT IT,  
WEAVING  
BETWEEN  
THE LANES.

WE WERE  
GOING DOWN  
THE KAN'ETSU  
A WHILE BACK  
WHEN WE GOT  
PASSED BY  
ONE.



I KNOW  
HOW MUCH  
KEISUKE  
HATES  
GT-RS.

THAT  
DIDN'T  
TAKE  
LONG!



THE GUY IN THE  
GT-R WASN'T A  
STREET RACER OR  
ANYTHING, JUST  
A NORMAL GUY.  
I THINK HE WAS  
TRYING TO IMPRESS  
THE GIRL HE WAS  
WITH.

THE REST  
OF US DIDN'T  
REALLY CARE,  
BUT KEISUKE  
DROPPED A  
GEAR AND  
WENT AFTER  
HIM.



I'M AS  
EAGER  
AS THE  
NEXT GUY  
TO STAY  
AHEAD OF  
NAKAZATO.

ANYWAY,  
GETTING  
BACK ON  
TOPIC.

...BUT NOT  
DRIVING  
LIKE THEY  
MEAN IT!

THERE'S TOO  
MANY CLOWNS  
RIDING  
AROUND IN  
GT-RS...

HRM



ALL I'M  
SAYING IS,  
DON'T GET  
YOURSELF  
IN TOO  
MUCH  
TROUBLE,  
KEISUKE!

SO  
KEISUKE'S FD  
ROARED UP TO  
HIM. I THINK  
IT SPOILED  
HIS LITTLE  
DATE.

KEISUKE  
TAILGATED THE  
HELL OUT OF  
HIM!







...PEOPLE  
WILL START  
SAYING THE  
RED SUNS  
AREN'T EVEN  
AS GOOD AS  
THE NIGHT  
KIDS!

IF THE  
NIGHT KIDS  
BEAT THE  
EIGHT-SIX  
THAT SHOWED  
US UP...



NO ONE IN  
THE NIGHT  
KIDS HAS  
THE CHOPS  
TO BEAT  
THE "GHOST  
PANDA."

I WOULDN'T  
WORRY,  
THOUGH.

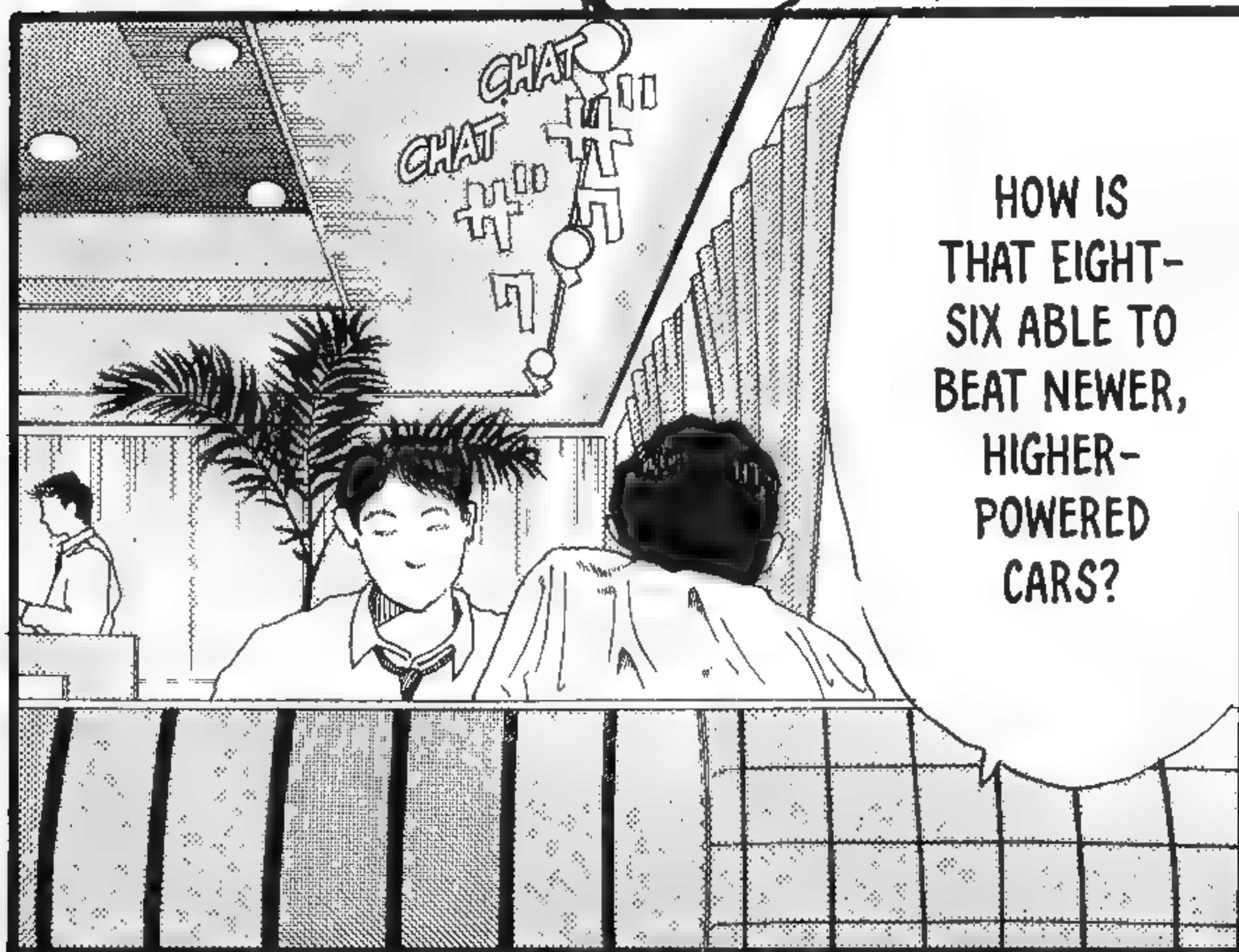


RUMOR'S  
ROUGH THAT  
WAY. I THINK  
MAYBE THAT'S  
WHAT NAKA-  
ZATO'S AFTER,  
HERE.



IT JUST  
DOESN'T  
MAKE SENSE  
TO ME.

I  
WONDER...



HOW IS  
THAT EIGHT-  
SIX ABLE TO  
BEAT NEWER,  
HIGHER-  
POWERED  
CARS?

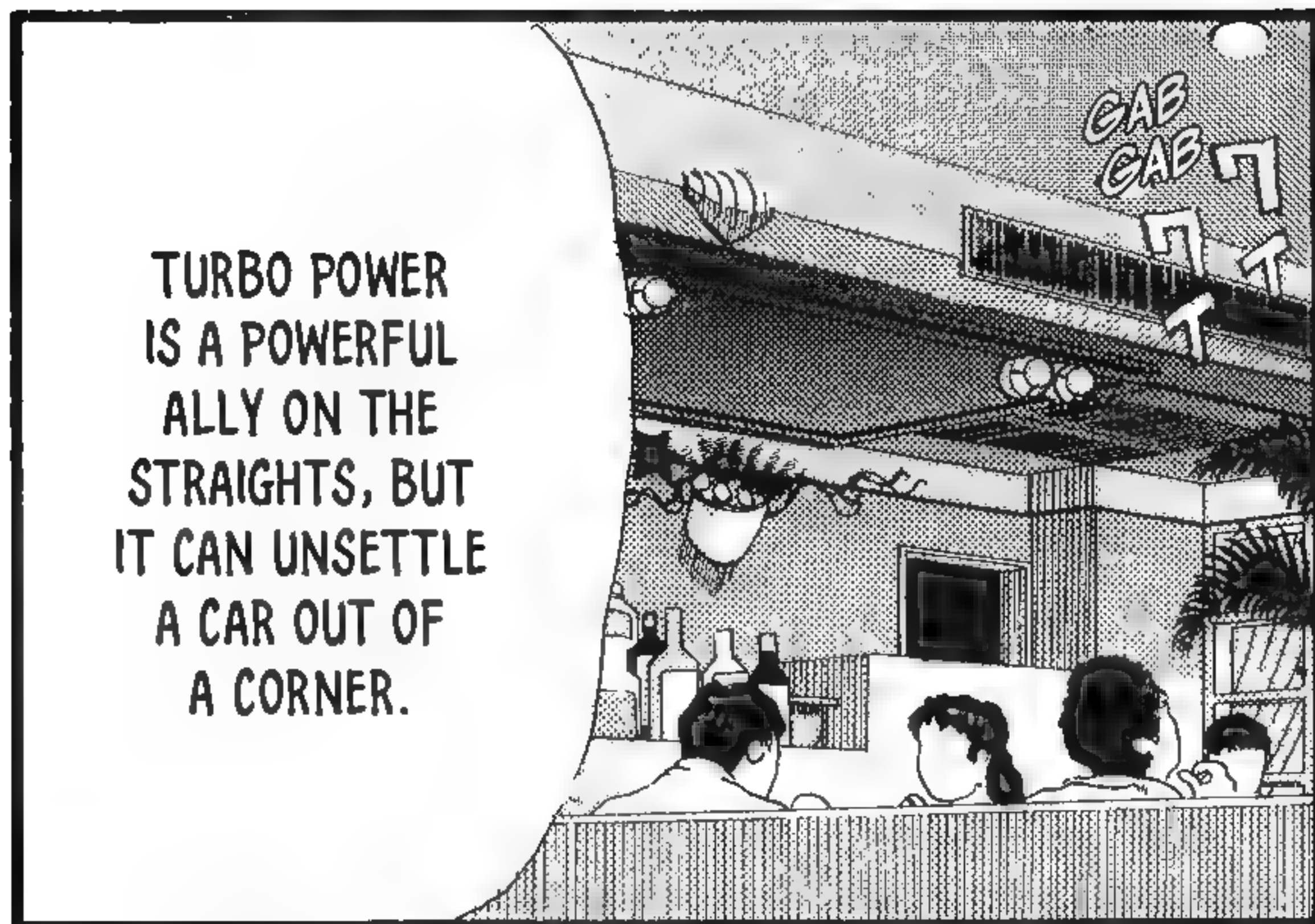


MY  
BROTHER'S  
THE ONLY ONE  
WHO MIGHT  
EVEN HAVE A  
CHANCE. THE  
GUY'S ON  
ANOTHER  
LEVEL.

I  
SHOULD  
KNOW—  
I LOST  
TO HIM  
TWICE!

I DON'T  
THINK  
ANYONE  
CAN BEAT  
HIM ON  
AKINA'S  
DOWNHILL.





TURBO POWER IS A POWERFUL ALLY ON THE STRAIGHTS, BUT IT CAN UNSETTLE A CAR OUT OF A CORNER.



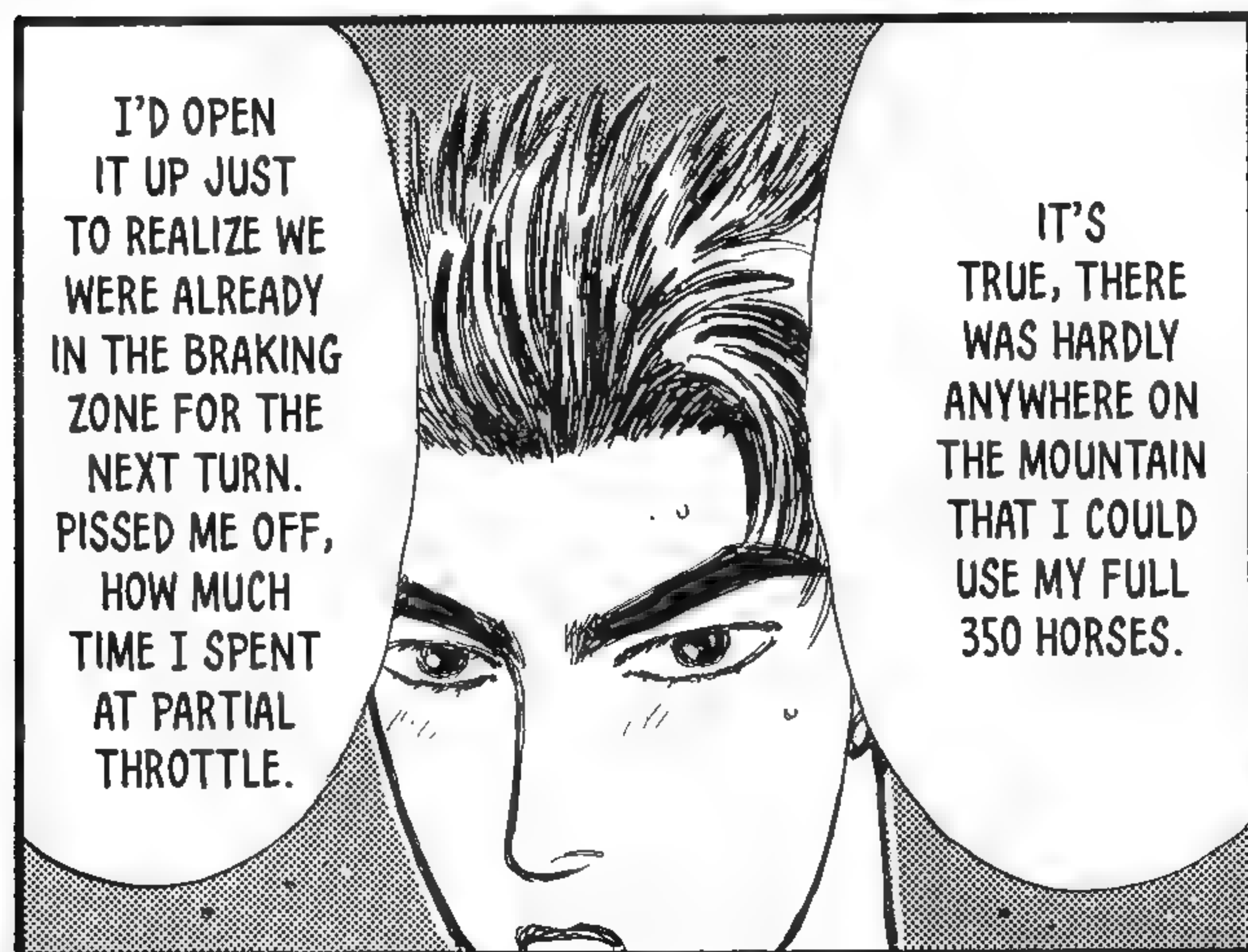
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN IT'S POSSIBLE TO HAVE TOO MUCH POWER.

ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN THAT.



ON A TECHNICAL COURSE WITH NO LONG STRAIGHTS, THE DRIVER WHO CAN GET ON THE POWER SOONER IS GOING TO BE FASTER.

IN CONTRAST, ONCE THE EIGHT-SIX HAS TAKEN A SET, THE DRIVER CAN SIMPLY FLOOR THE ACCELERATOR.



I'D OPEN IT UP JUST TO REALIZE WE WERE ALREADY IN THE BRAKING ZONE FOR THE NEXT TURN. PISSED ME OFF, HOW MUCH TIME I SPENT AT PARTIAL THROTTLE.

IT'S TRUE, THERE WAS HARDLY ANYWHERE ON THE MOUNTAIN THAT I COULD USE MY FULL 350 HORSES.



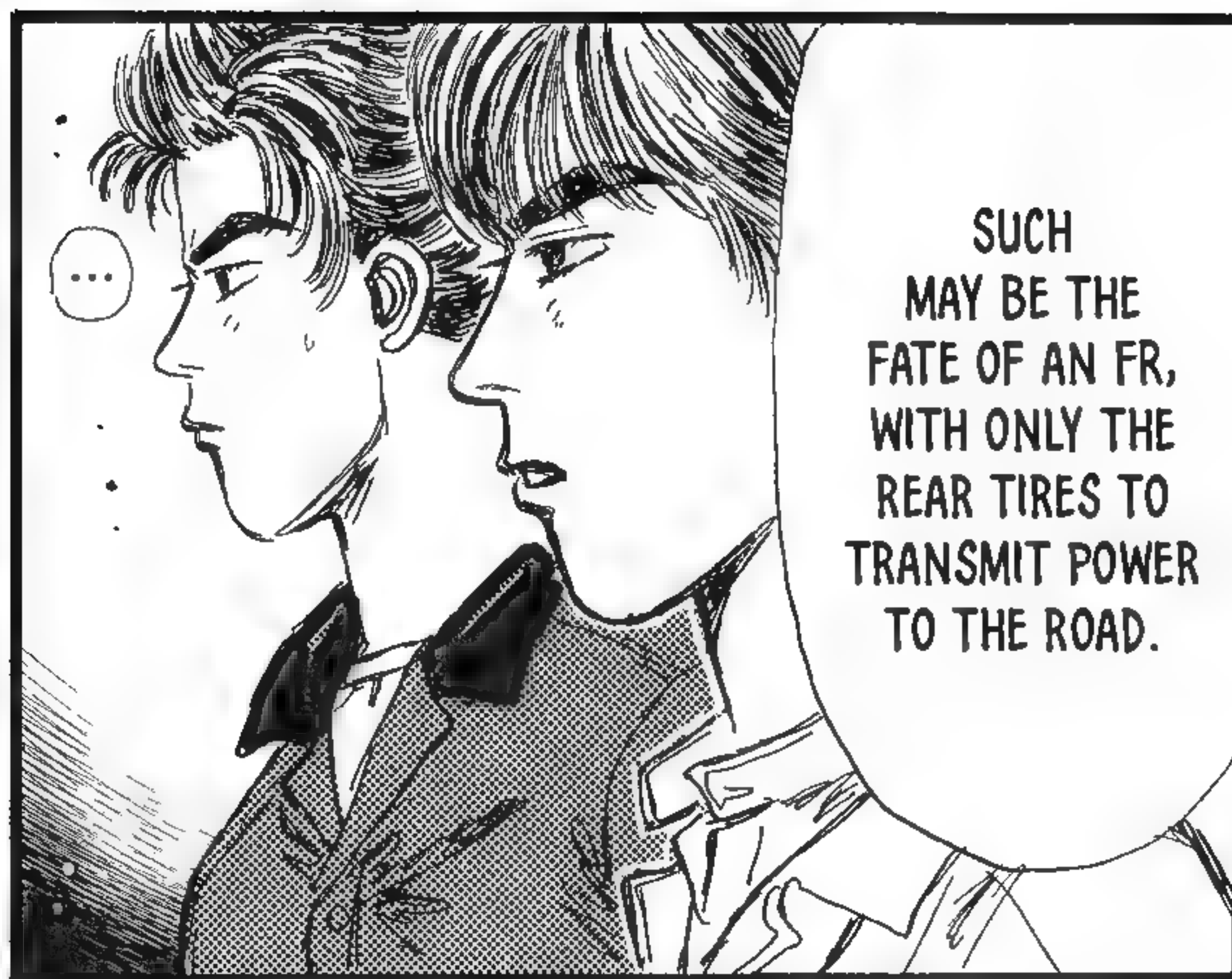
...SPECIFICALLY TO BEAT GT-RS. BUT HERE, THEY'RE WORKING AGAINST HIM!

KEISUKE INSTALLED BEEFED-UP TURBOS...

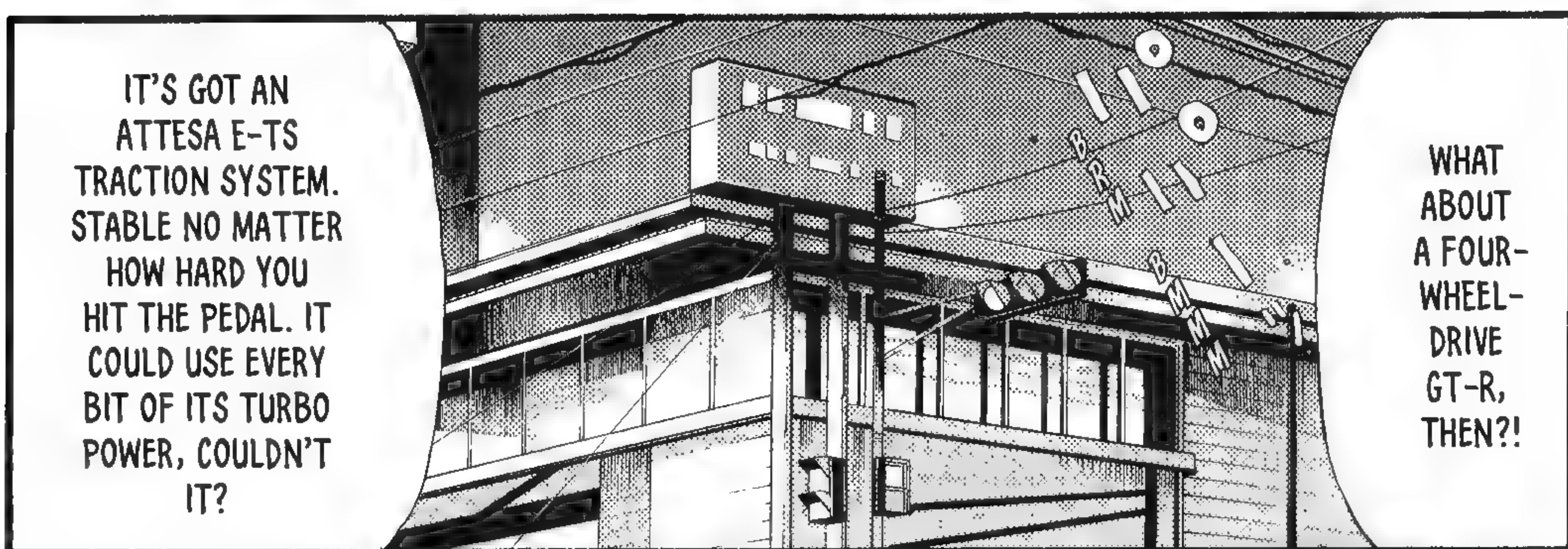




WHOA,  
HOLD  
ON!



SUCH  
MAY BE THE  
FATE OF AN FR,  
WITH ONLY THE  
REAR TIRES TO  
TRANSMIT POWER  
TO THE ROAD.



IT'S GOT AN  
ATTESA E-TS  
TRACTION SYSTEM.  
STABLE NO MATTER  
HOW HARD YOU  
HIT THE PEDAL. IT  
COULD USE EVERY  
BIT OF ITS TURBO  
POWER, COULDN'T  
IT?

WHAT  
ABOUT  
A FOUR-  
WHEEL-  
DRIVE  
GT-R,  
THEN?!



YOU'RE  
FORGETTING  
ONE VERY  
IMPORTANT  
THING.

I  
WOULDN'T  
BE SO SURE  
ABOUT  
THAT.



NAKAZATO  
AND HIS  
GT-R... THEY  
COULD BEAT  
THAT EIGHT-  
SIX!

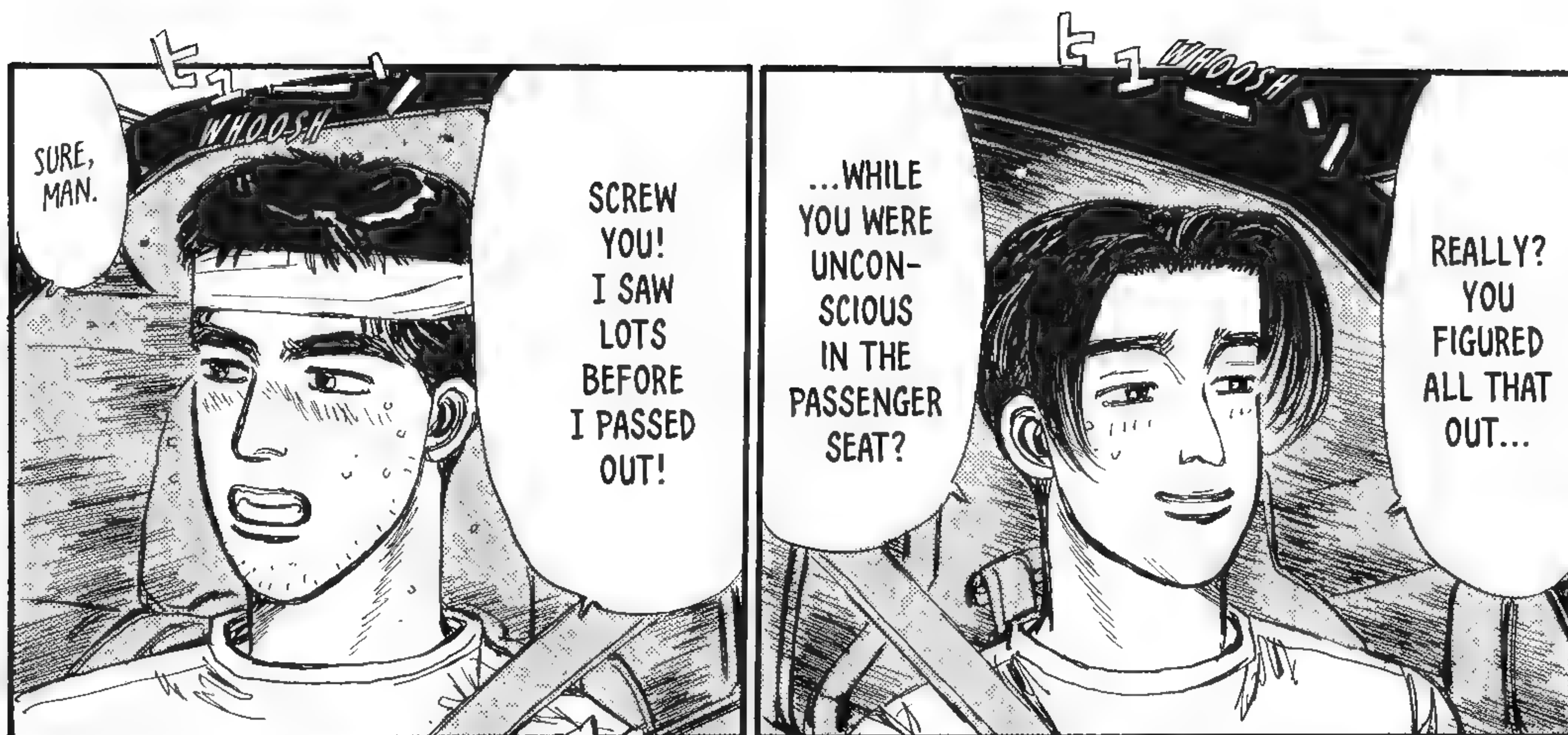
HE  
COULD  
DO IT,  
COULDN'T  
HE?!

HE'S  
GONNA  
GET  
AHEAD  
OF US...







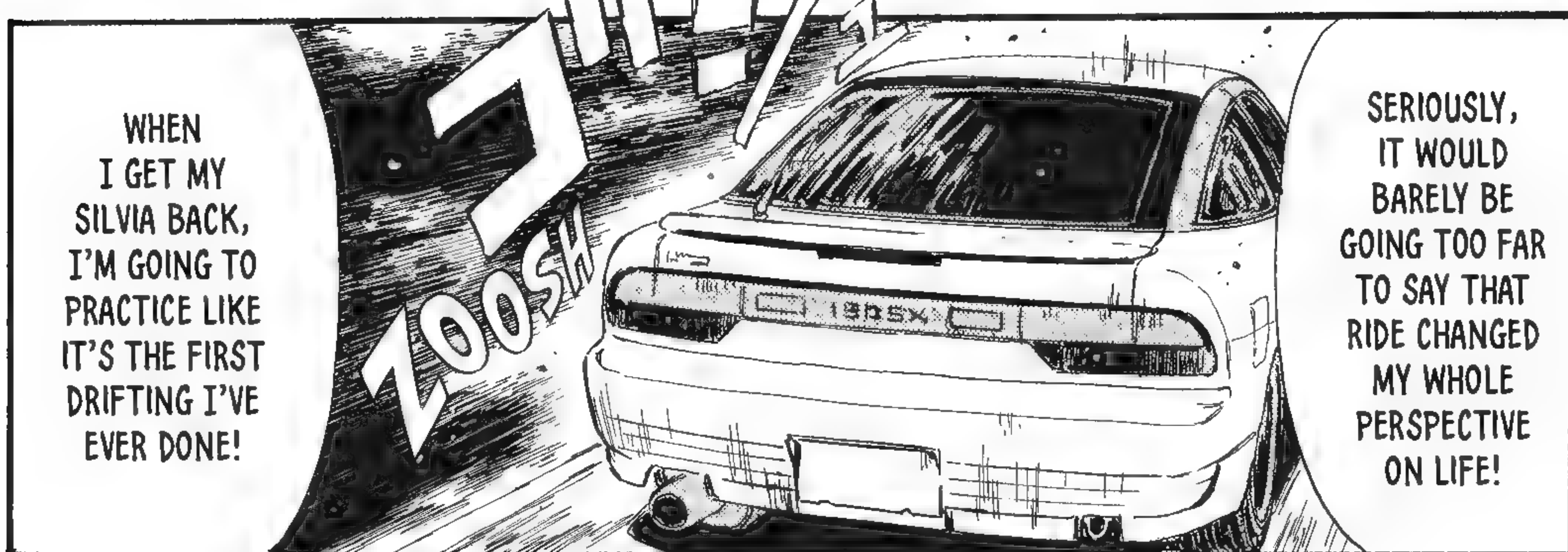


SURE,  
MAN.

SCREW  
YOU!  
I SAW  
LOTS  
BEFORE  
I PASSED  
OUT!

...WHILE  
YOU WERE  
UNCON-  
SCIOUS  
IN THE  
PASSENGER  
SEAT?

REALLY?  
YOU  
FIGURED  
ALL THAT  
OUT...



WHEN  
I GET MY  
SILVIA BACK,  
I'M GOING TO  
PRACTICE LIKE  
IT'S THE FIRST  
DRIFTING I'VE  
EVER DONE!

SERIOUSLY,  
IT WOULD  
BARELY BE  
GOING TOO FAR  
TO SAY THAT  
RIDE CHANGED  
MY WHOLE  
PERSPECTIVE  
ON LIFE!



WHEN TAKUMI  
JOINS US, THE  
SPEED STARS  
ARE GONNA  
BE REBORN AS  
A REAL RACE  
TEAM!

THE  
PASSION,  
MAN! IT  
*BURNS*  
IN ME!

REAL  
DRIFTING  
IS AS  
FAST AS  
ANYTHING!  
TAKUMI  
PROVED IT  
TO ME!

0\*

0\*

0\*



I KNOW PEOPLE  
SAY DRIFTING ISN'T  
AS FAST AS JUST  
USING ALL THE  
AVAILABLE GRIP,  
BUT I'M LIVING  
PROOF THAT'S  
NOT TRUE.





NOT THAT  
I'M GONNA  
TAKE NO FOR  
AN ANSWER!

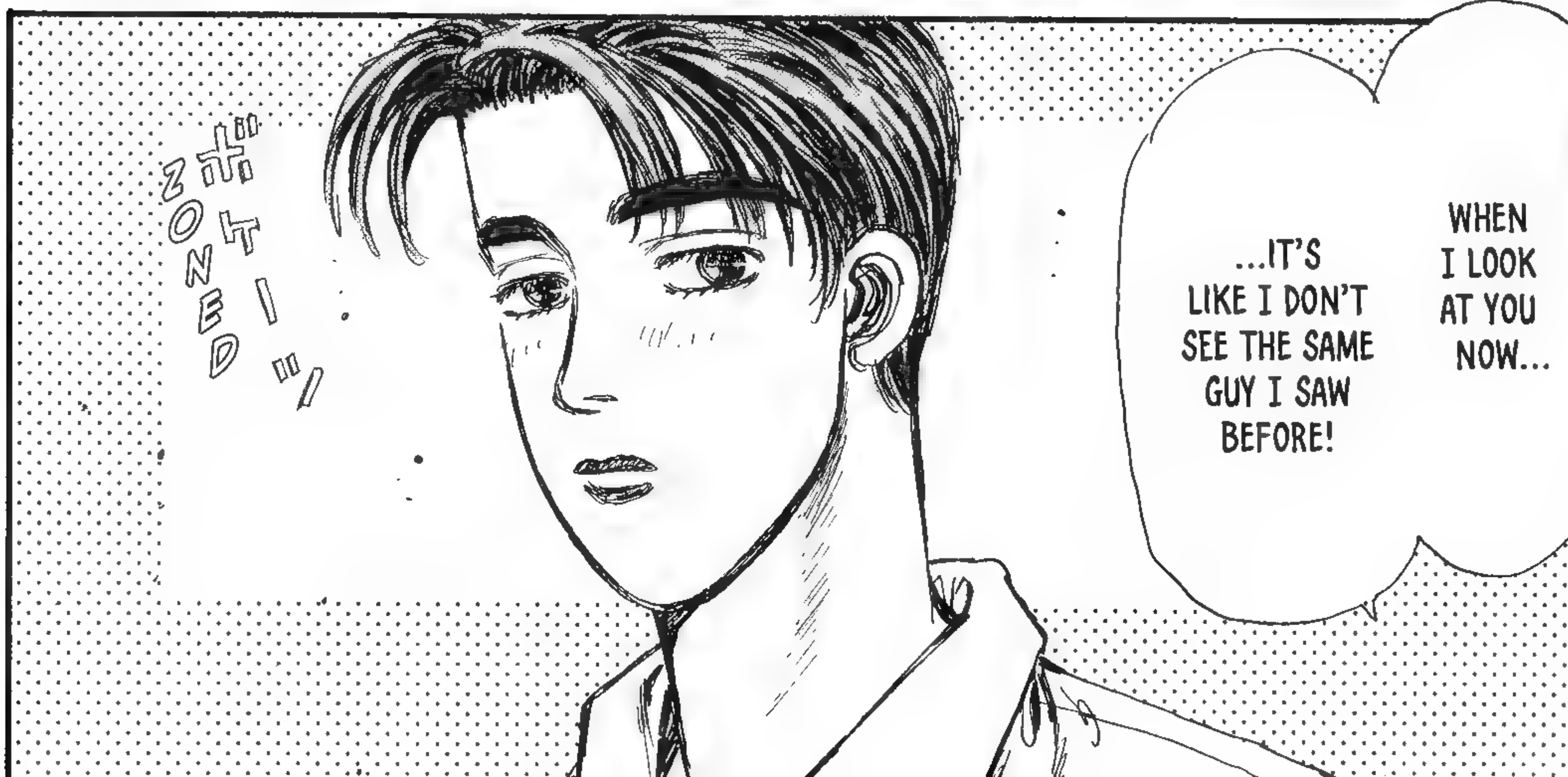
GOSH,  
I HOPE HE  
WILL JOIN  
US...

POP  
CRACK

Y'KNOW,  
TAKUMI, IT'S  
FUNNY.



JH  
MEEN  
MEEN

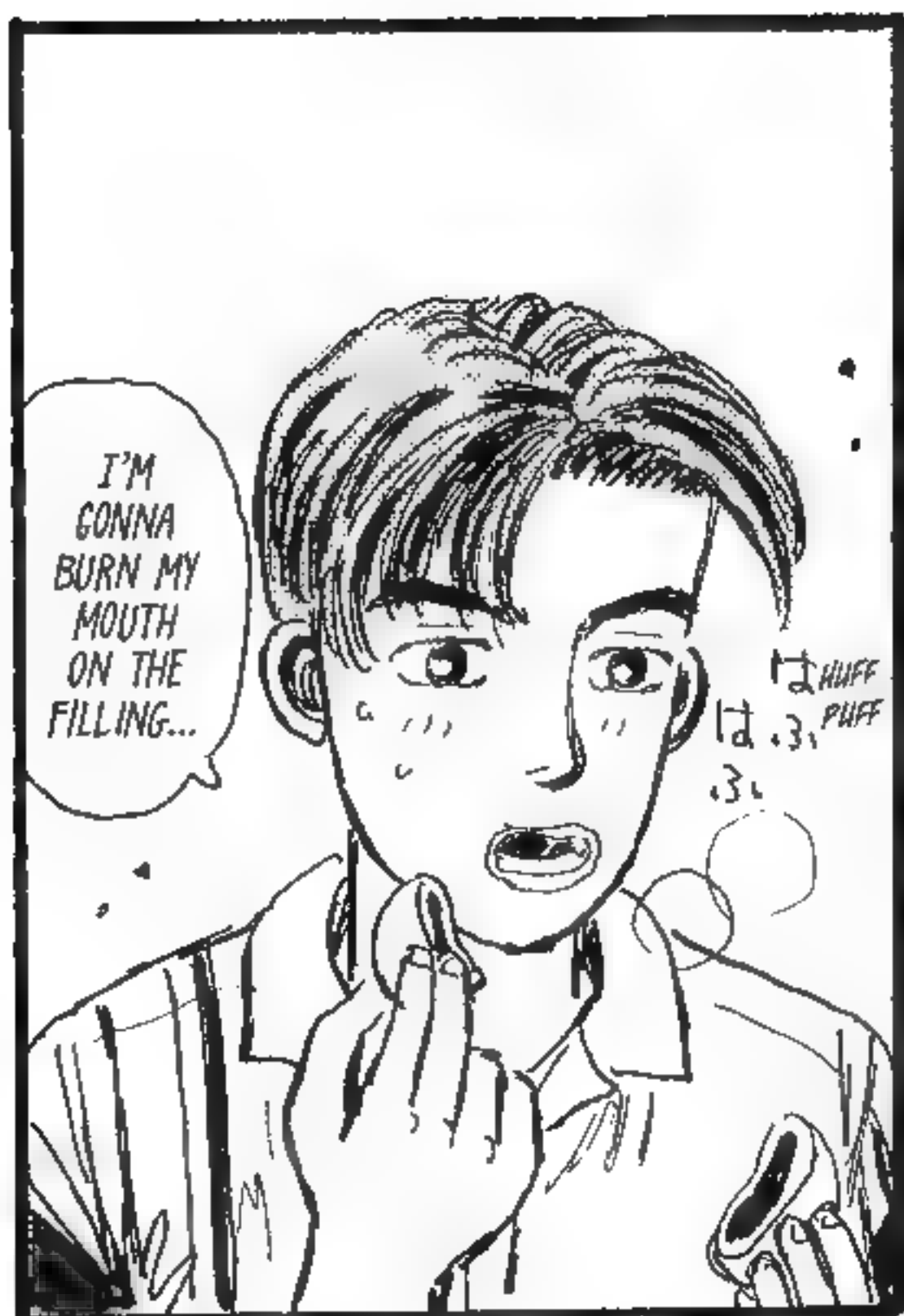


ZH  
ONE  
D

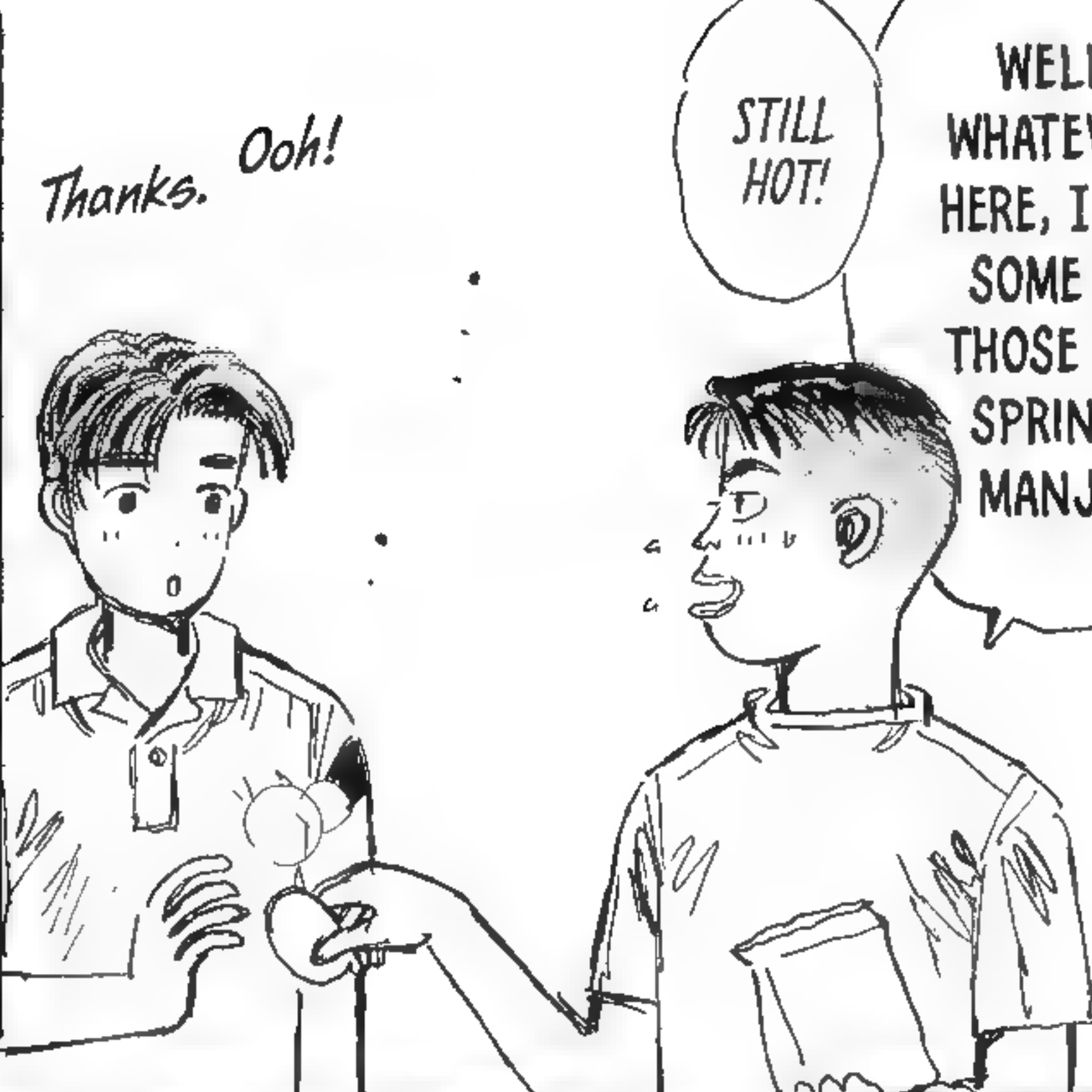
...IT'S  
LIKE I DON'T  
SEE THE SAME  
GUY I SAW  
BEFORE!

WHEN  
I LOOK  
AT YOU  
NOW...





I'M GONNA BURN MY MOUTH ON THE FILLING...



Thanks. Ooh!

STILL HOT!

WELL, WHATEVER. HERE, I GOT SOME OF THOSE HOT SPRINGS MANJU!

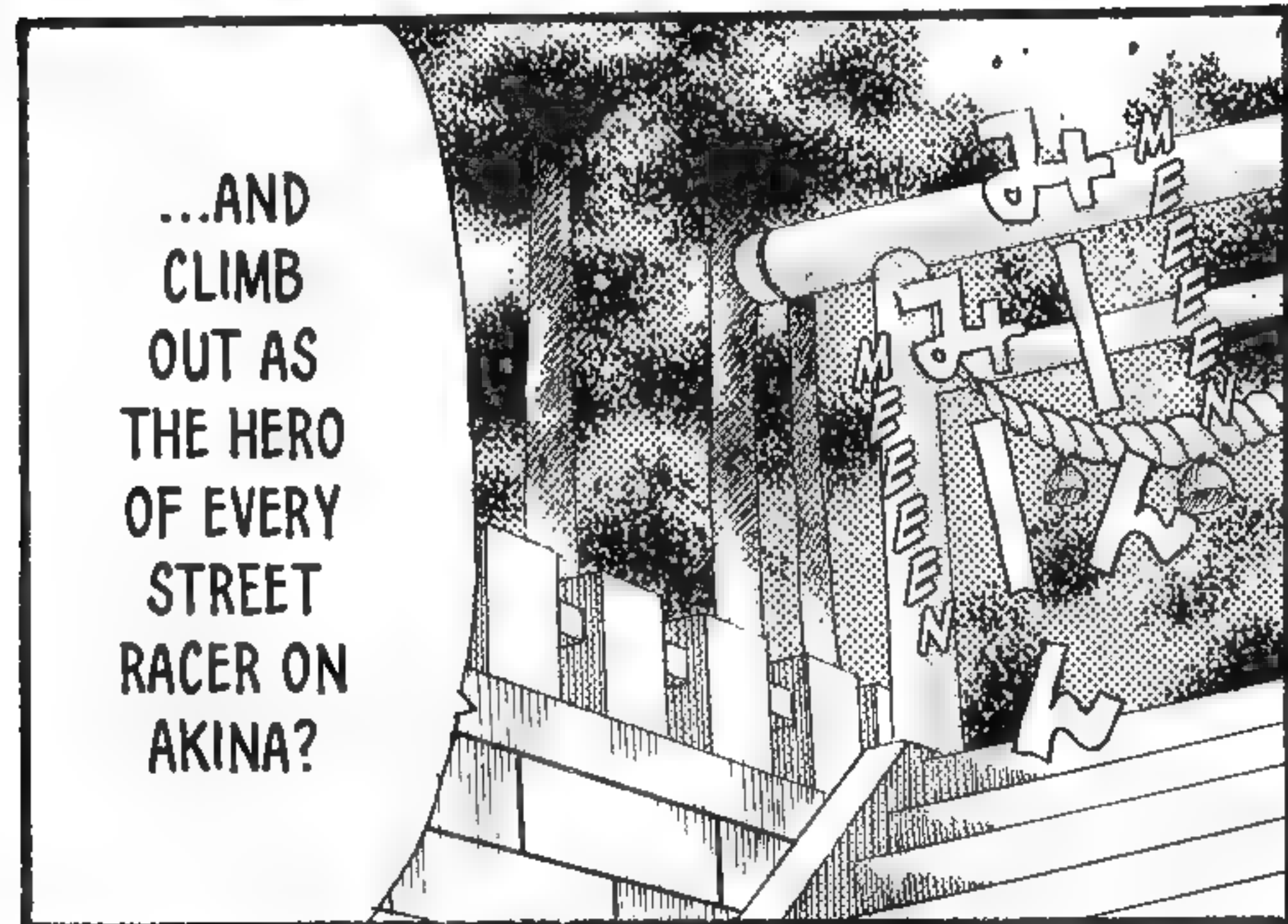


I DON'T GET IT.

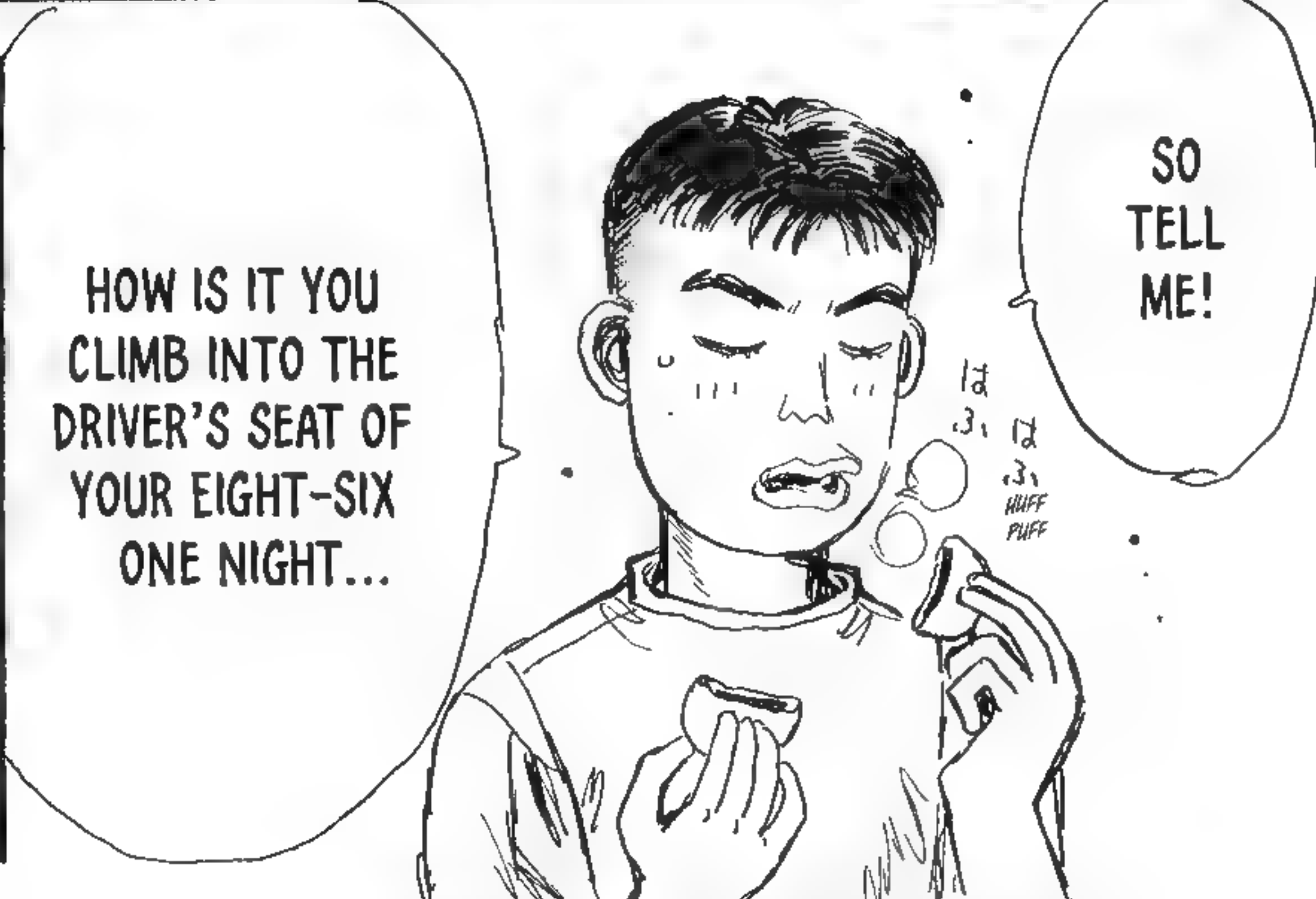


SPACED OUT, SLEEPY, AND WITH YOUR FACE FULL OF FOOD!

SEE? WHEN YOU'RE EATING THAT BUN, YOU LOOK LIKE THE TAKUMI I ALWAYS KNEW.



...AND CLIMB OUT AS THE HERO OF EVERY STREET RACER ON AKINA?



HOW IS IT YOU CLIMB INTO THE DRIVER'S SEAT OF YOUR EIGHT-SIX ONE NIGHT...

SO TELL ME!



I AM NOT SPACED OUT...

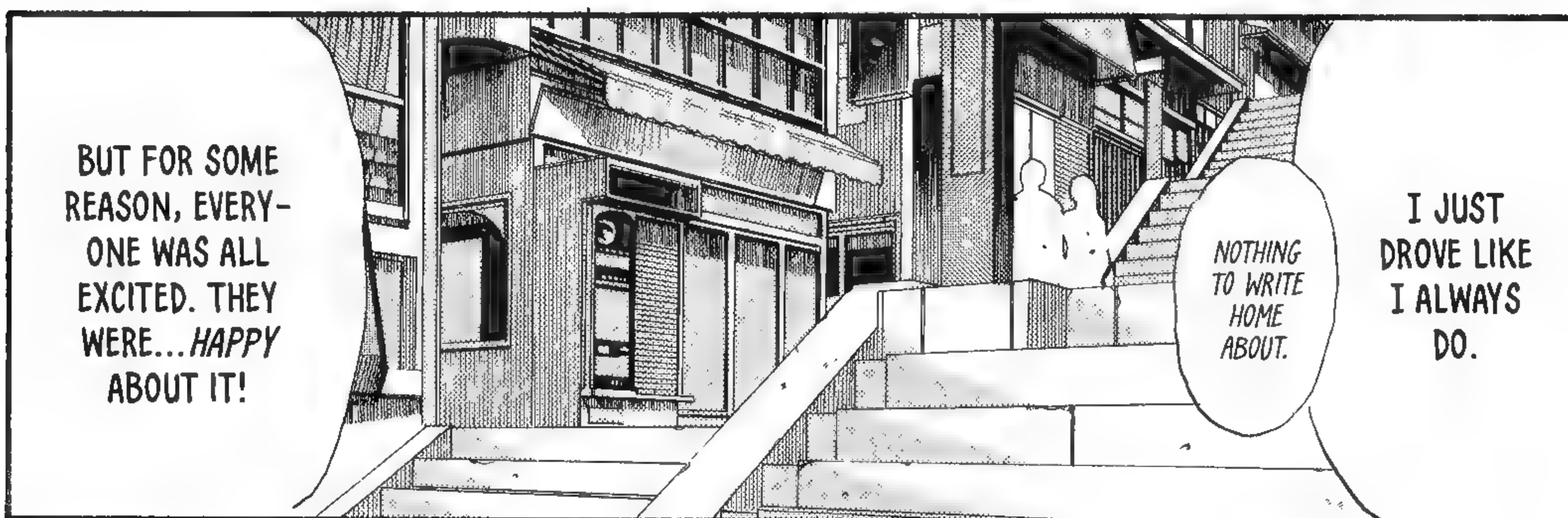
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING! I SAID, YOU'RE NOT LIKE THAT NOW! YOU'RE JUST SPACED OUT AND STUFFING YOUR FACE WITH BEAN BUN!



EVERYONE? YOU'RE MAKIN' ME BLUSH, ITSUKI.

GOSH, UH, AM I?







I'M  
ACTUALLY...  
STARTING TO  
ENJOY THEM.

DRIVING...  
RACING...



IF YOU  
WANT.  
BUT I'M  
A PRETTY  
STERN  
TEACHER.

MEEN  
MEEN  
MEEN

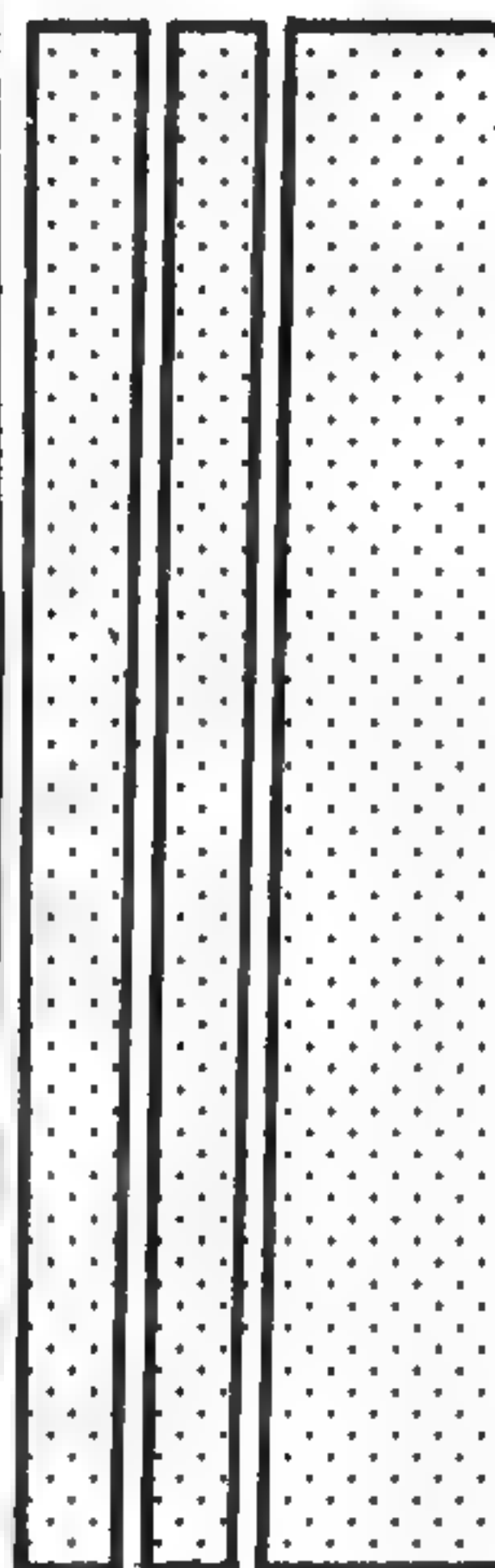
WHEN I BUY  
AN EIGHT-SIX,  
WOULD YOU  
BE MY DRIFT  
COACH?

IN LIGHT  
OF YOUR  
GENEROUS  
NATURE,  
MAYBE YOU  
COULD DO ME  
A FAVOR.

SO,  
TAKUMI!



On  
Mount  
Akina...



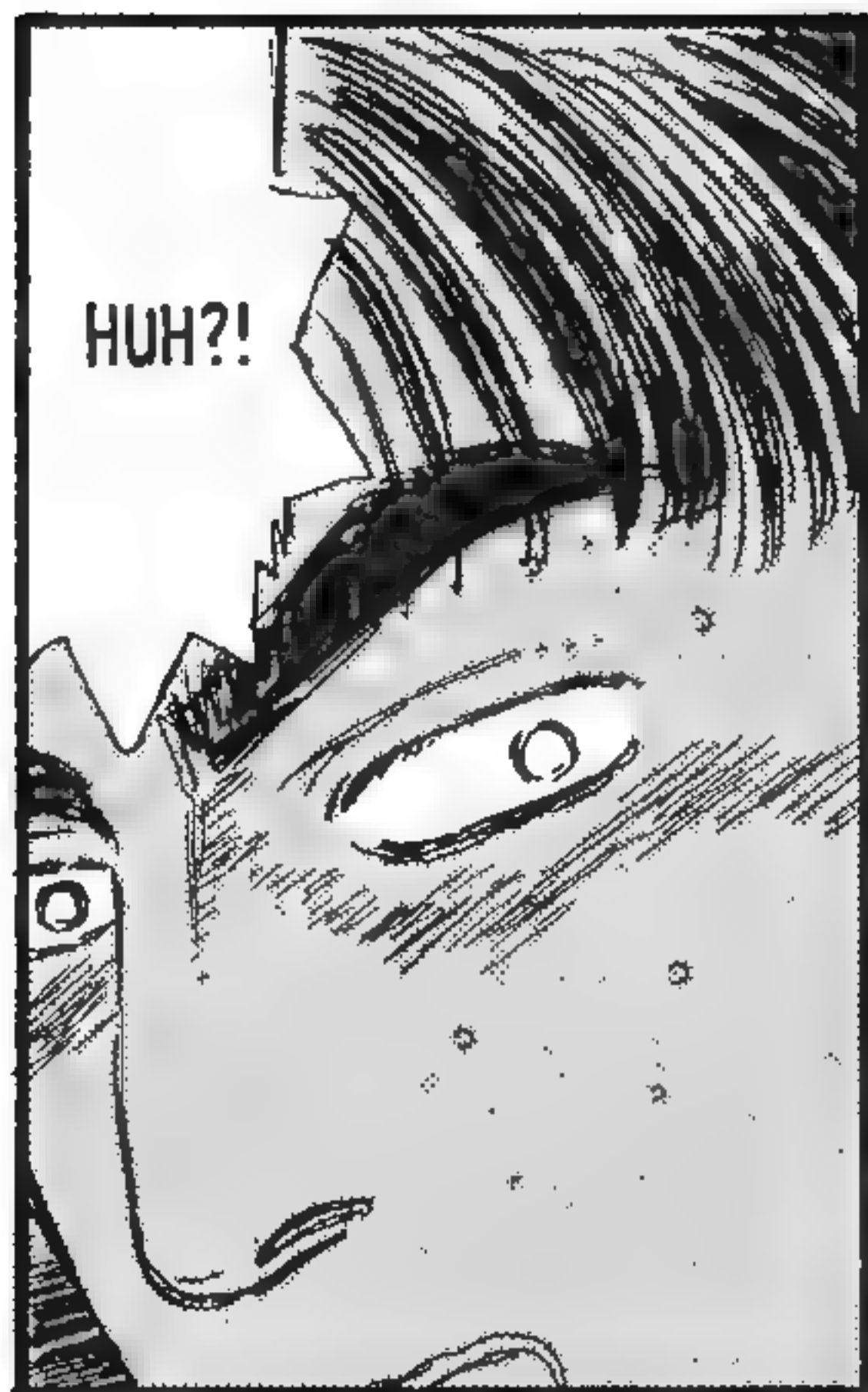












HUH?!



VRRRAAH



HE PUT IT  
AROUND OUR  
OUTSIDE LIKE WE  
WERE STANDING  
STILL!

SCRRRAAH!!





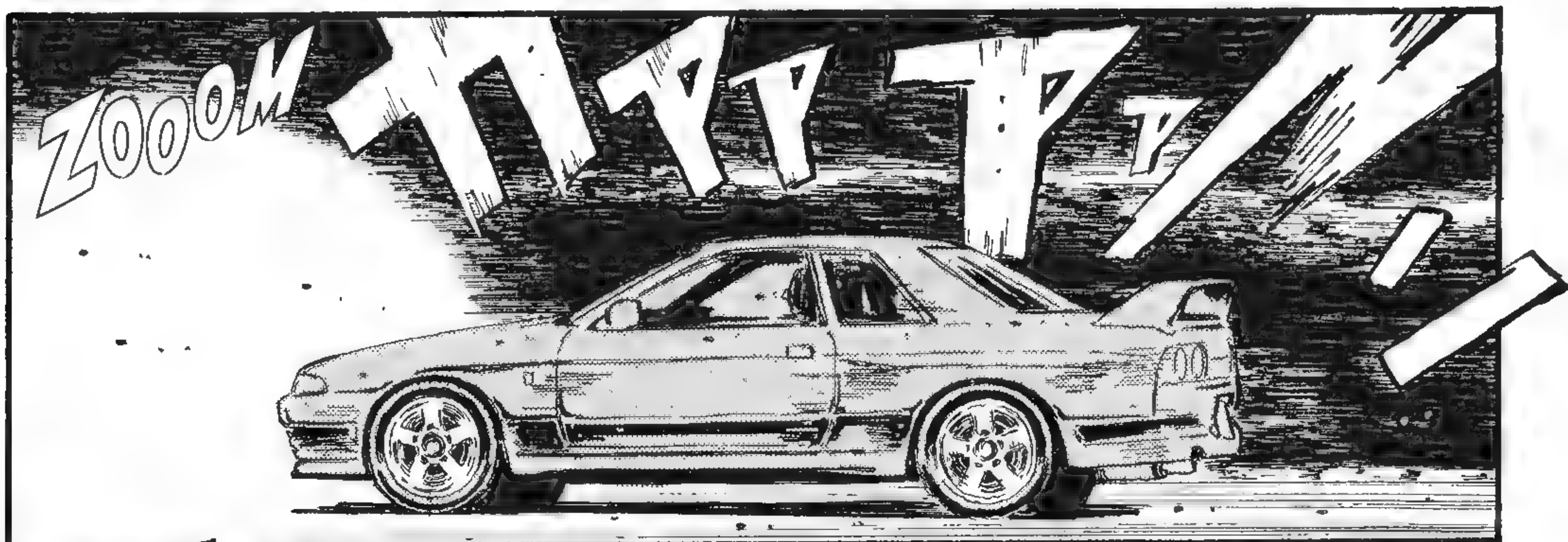
NOT  
UNLESS  
THE OTHER  
GUY MAKES  
A SERIOUS  
MISTAKE.

I SHOULD  
KNOW BETTER...  
A LITTLE ENGINE  
LIKE THIS CAN'T  
BEAT A LARGE-  
DISPLACEMENT  
MOTOR LIKE  
THAT.

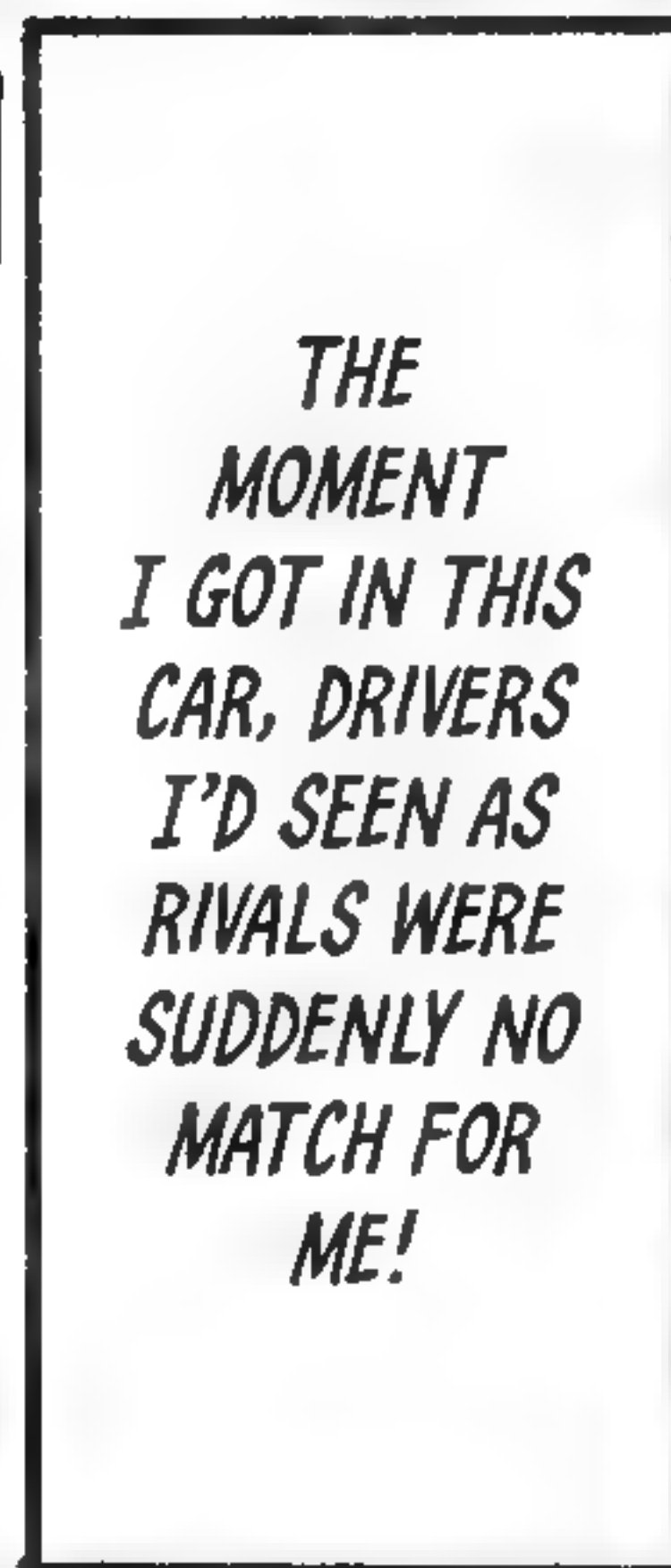


YOW!  
THOSE ARE  
FLAMES  
COMING  
OUT  
OF HIS  
EXHAUST!

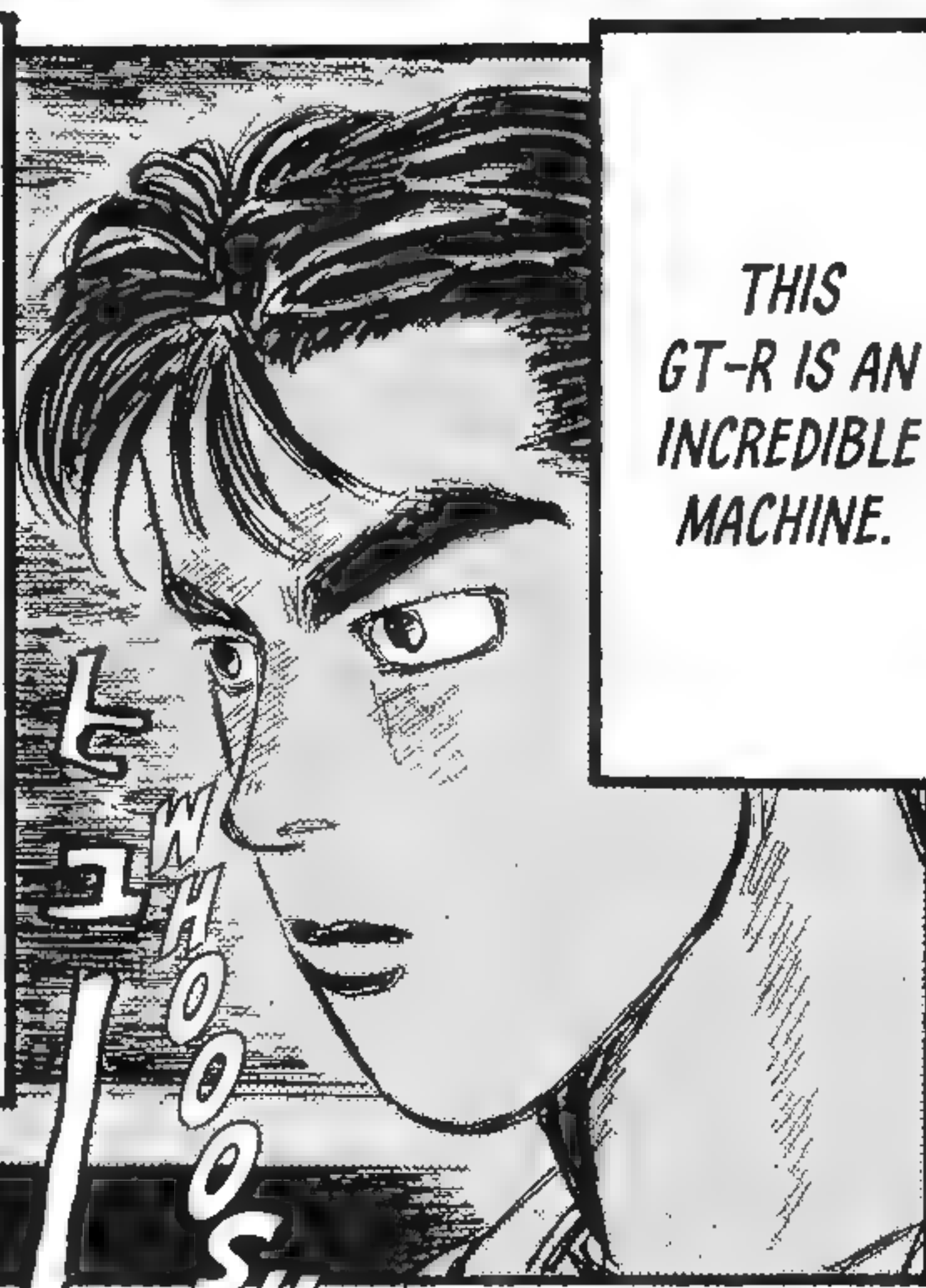
GEEZ! WE  
CAN'T TOUCH  
ACCELERATION  
LIKE THAT!



BUT THAT  
MEANT THERE  
WERE NO MORE  
OPPONENTS  
WHO COULD  
REALLY PUSH  
ME.

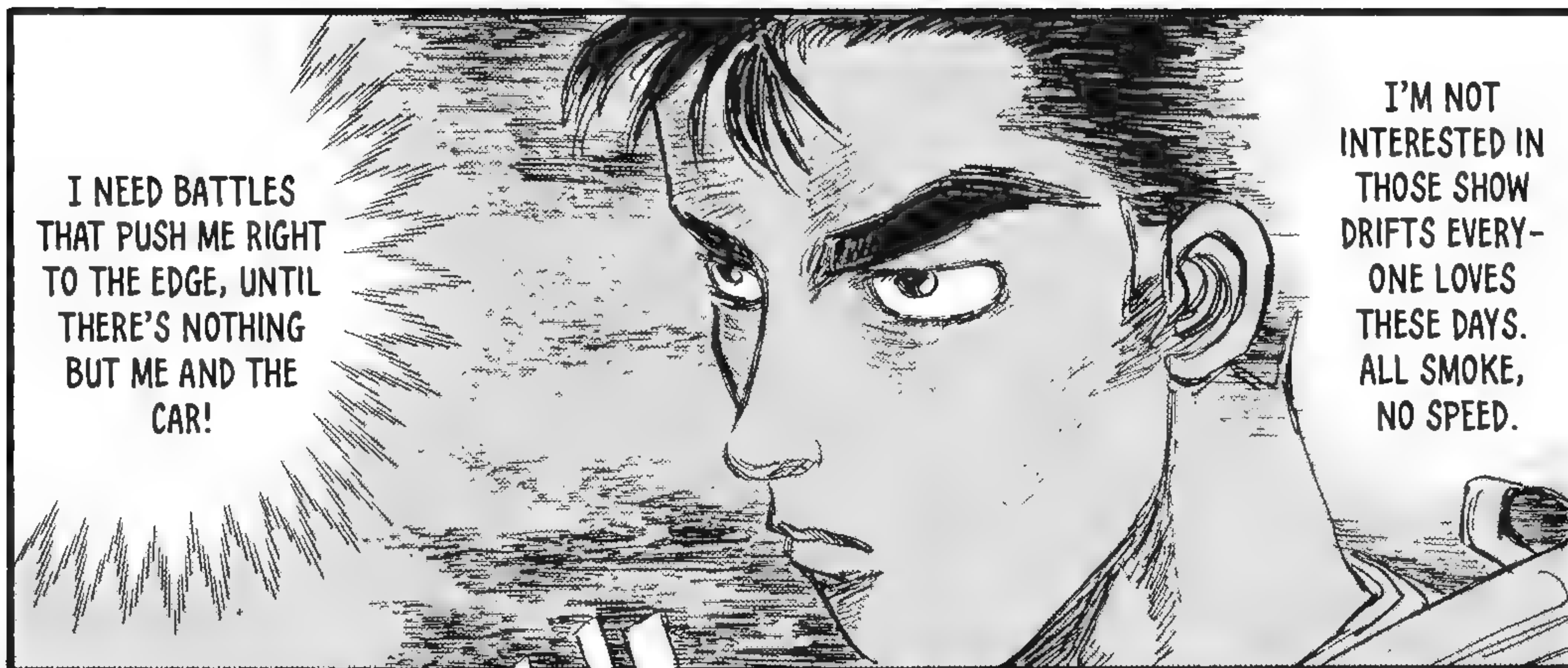


THE  
MOMENT  
I GOT IN THIS  
CAR, DRIVERS  
I'D SEEN AS  
RIVALS WERE  
SUDDENLY NO  
MATCH FOR  
ME!



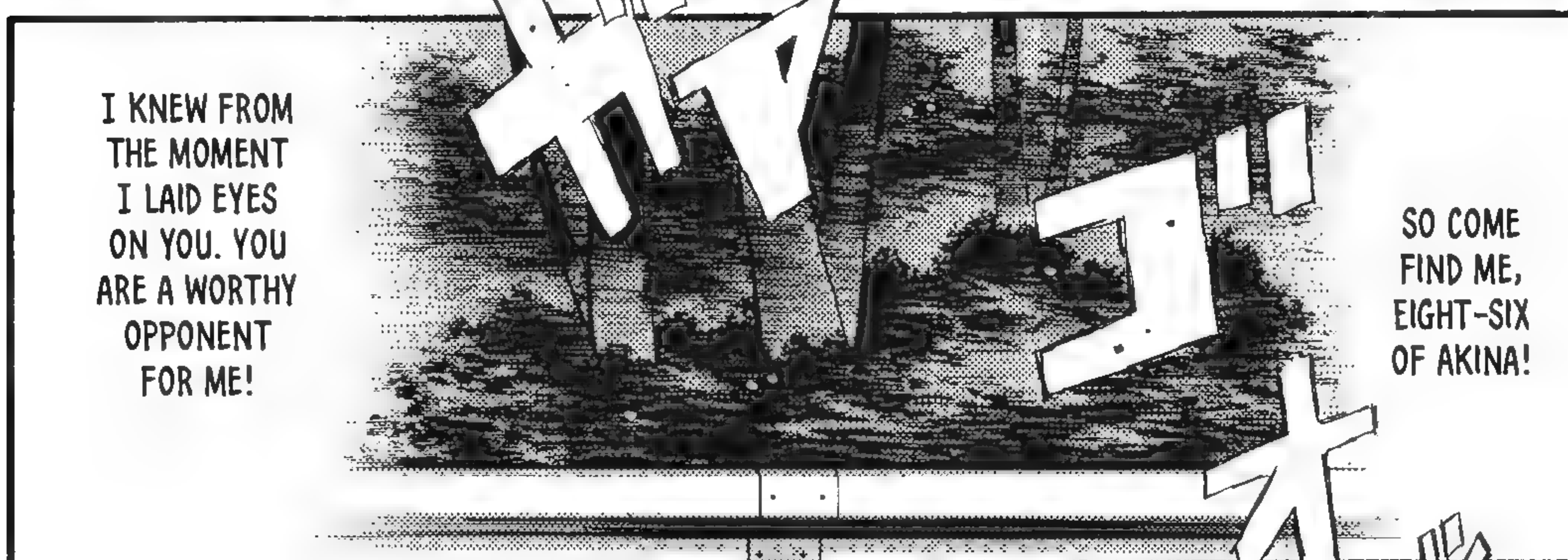
THIS  
GT-R IS AN  
INCREDIBLE  
MACHINE.





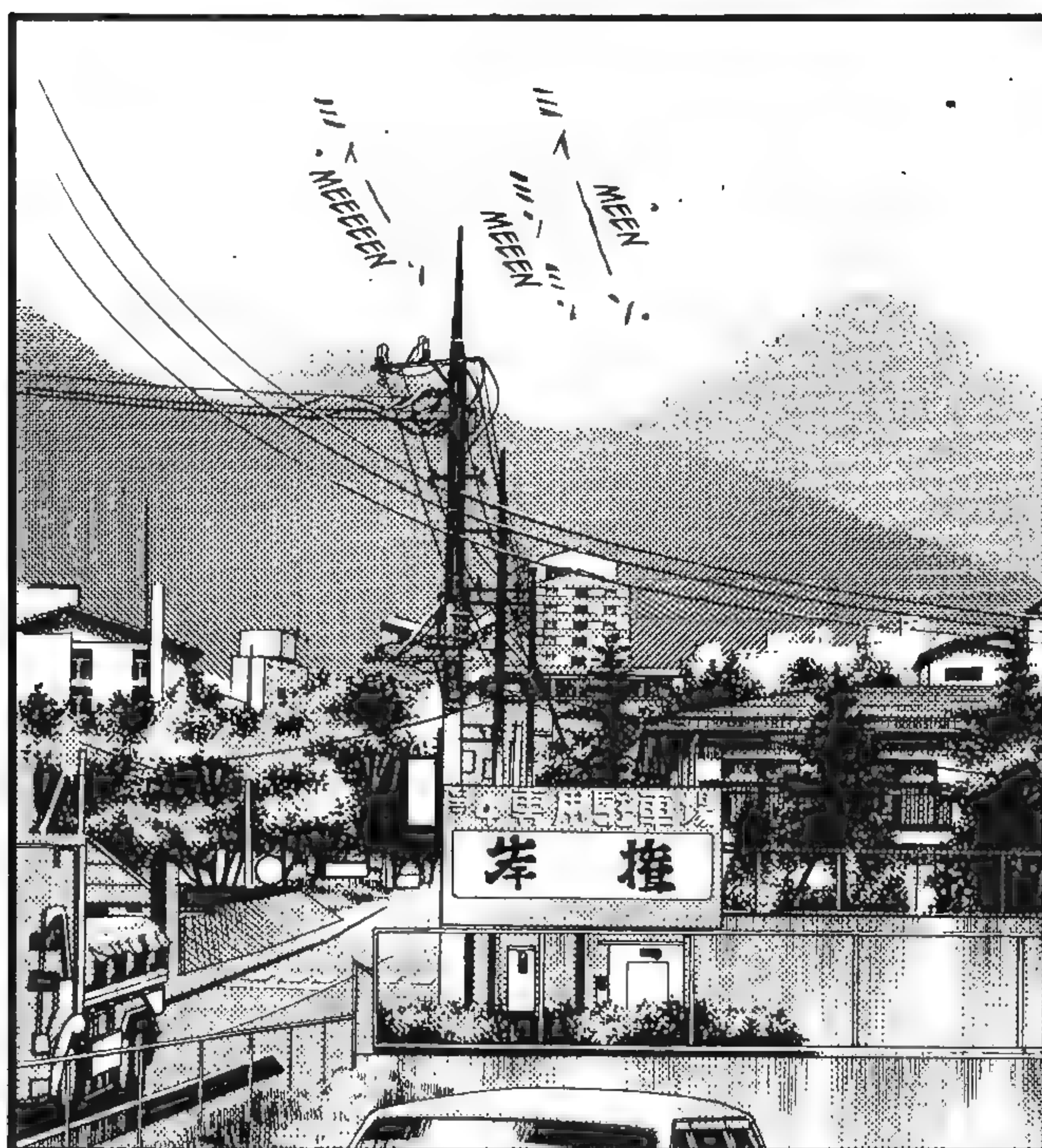
I NEED BATTLES  
THAT PUSH ME RIGHT  
TO THE EDGE, UNTIL  
THERE'S NOTHING  
BUT ME AND THE  
CAR!

I'M NOT  
INTERESTED IN  
THOSE SHOW  
DRIFTS EVERY-  
ONE LOVES  
THESE DAYS.  
ALL SMOKE,  
NO SPEED.



I KNEW FROM  
THE MOMENT  
I LAID EYES  
ON YOU. YOU  
ARE A WORTHY  
OPPONENT  
FOR ME!

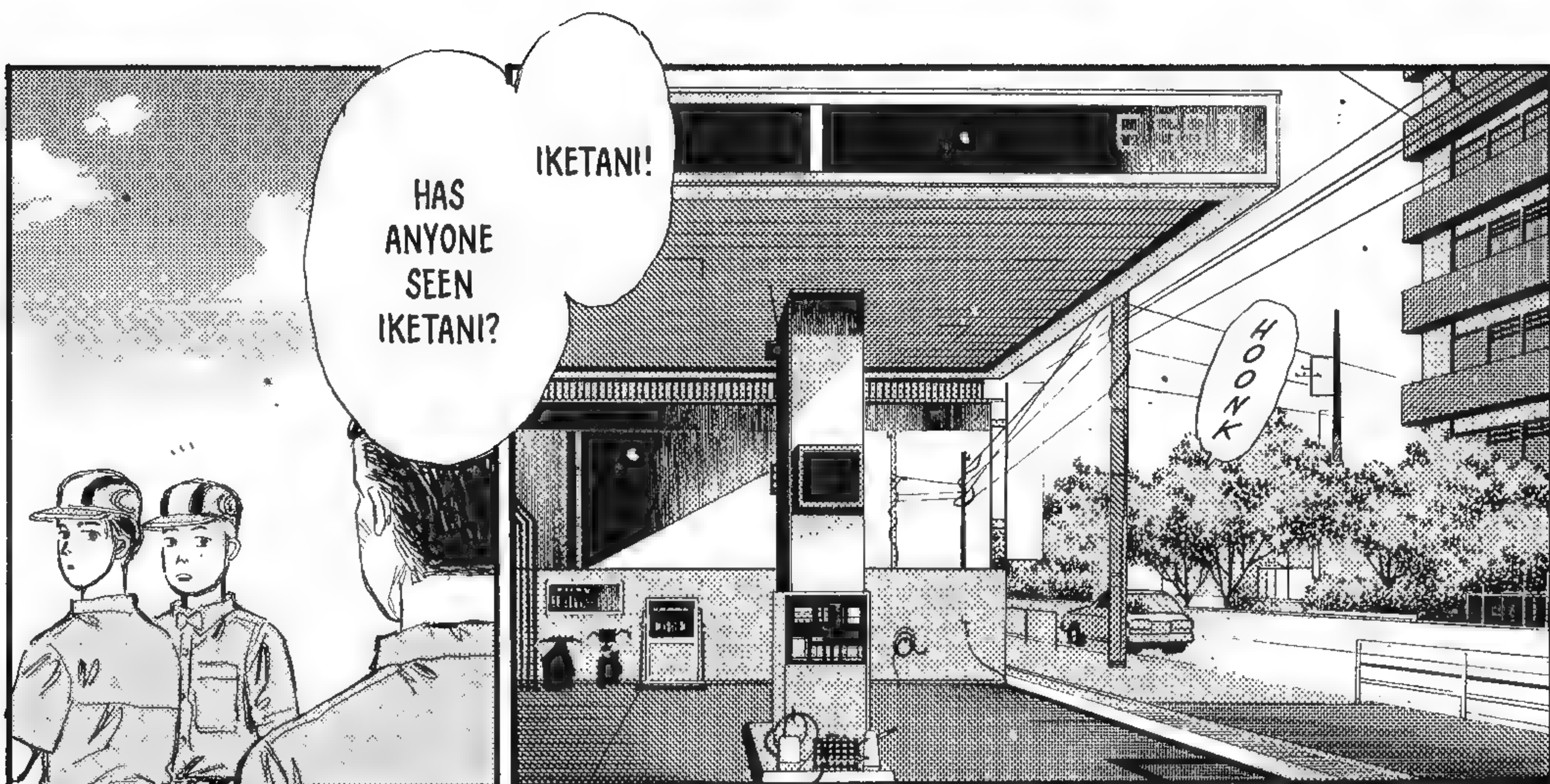
SO COME  
FIND ME,  
EIGHT-SIX  
OF AKINA!



Sign: Kishigon—Parking, Cars Only



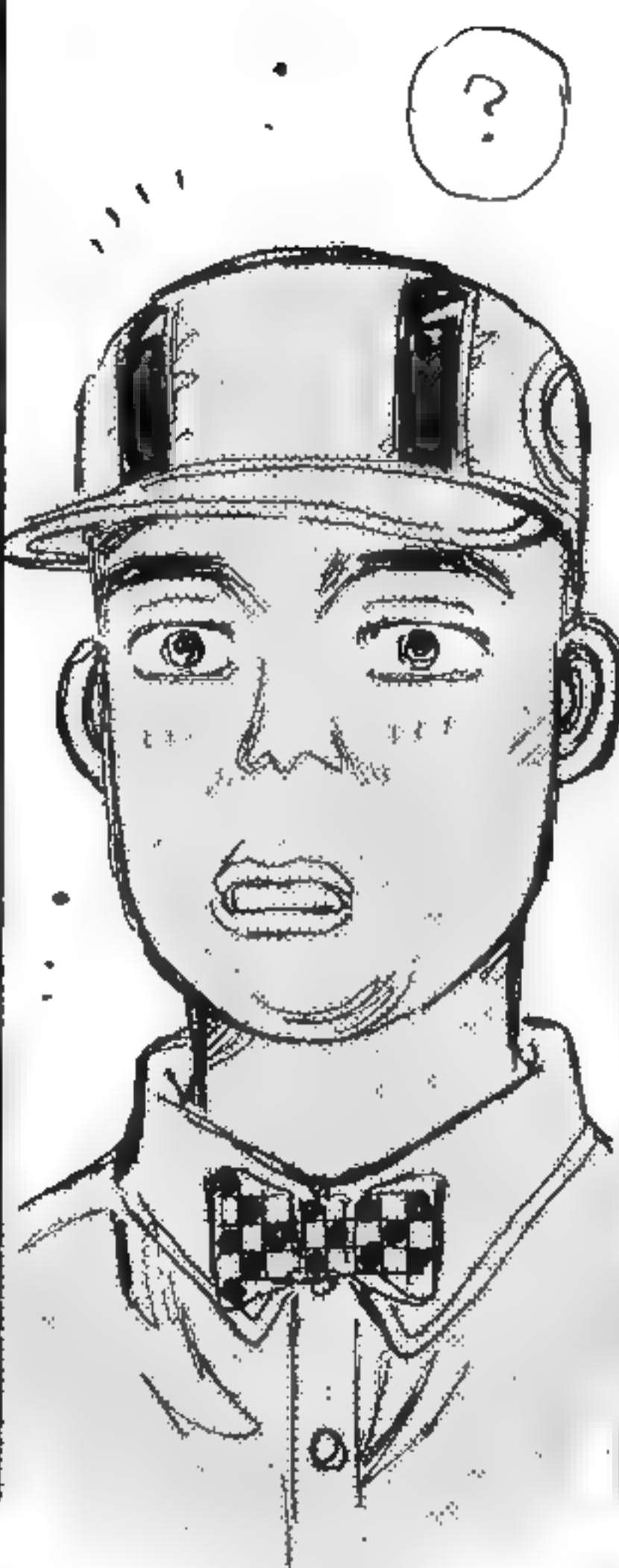
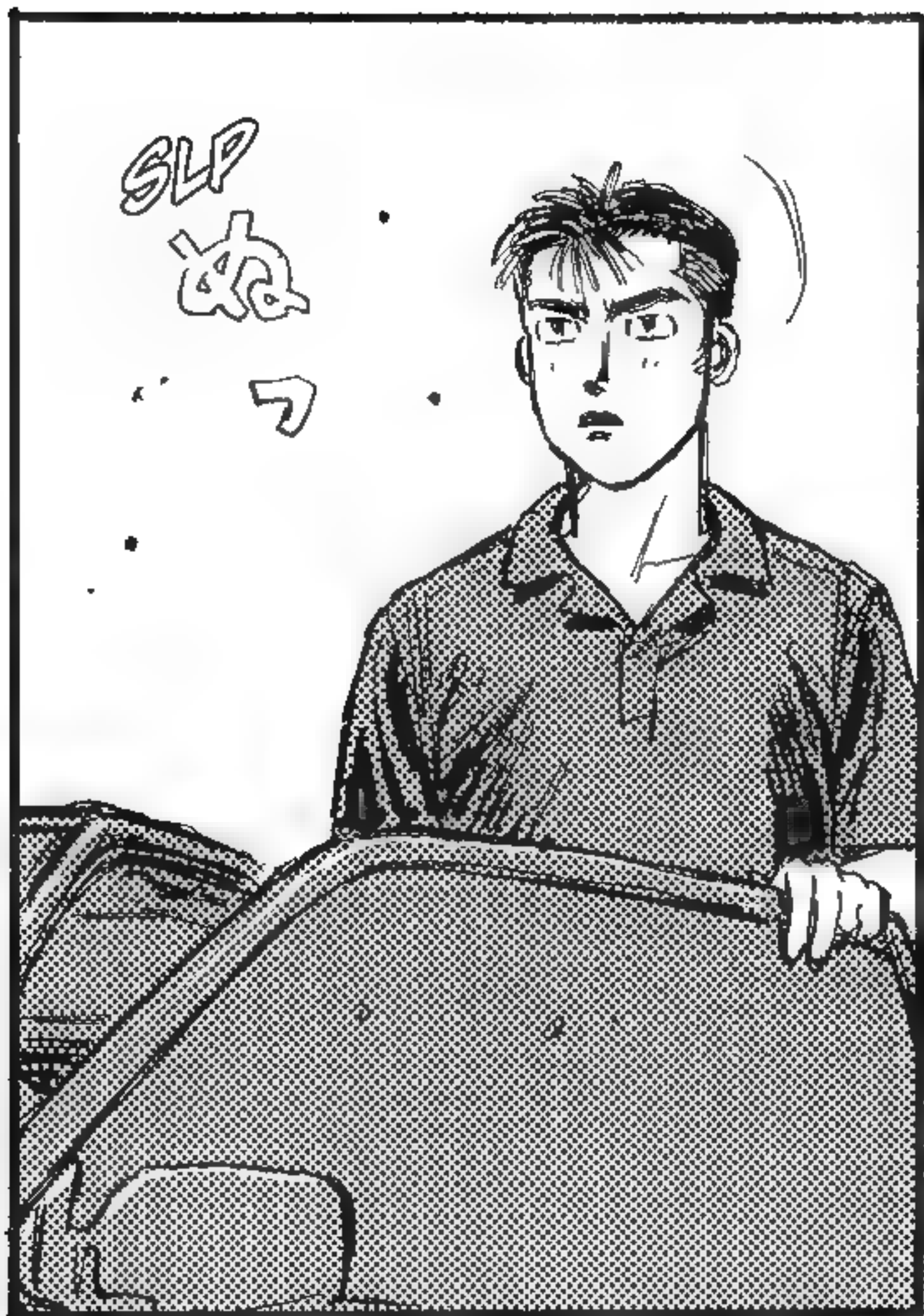










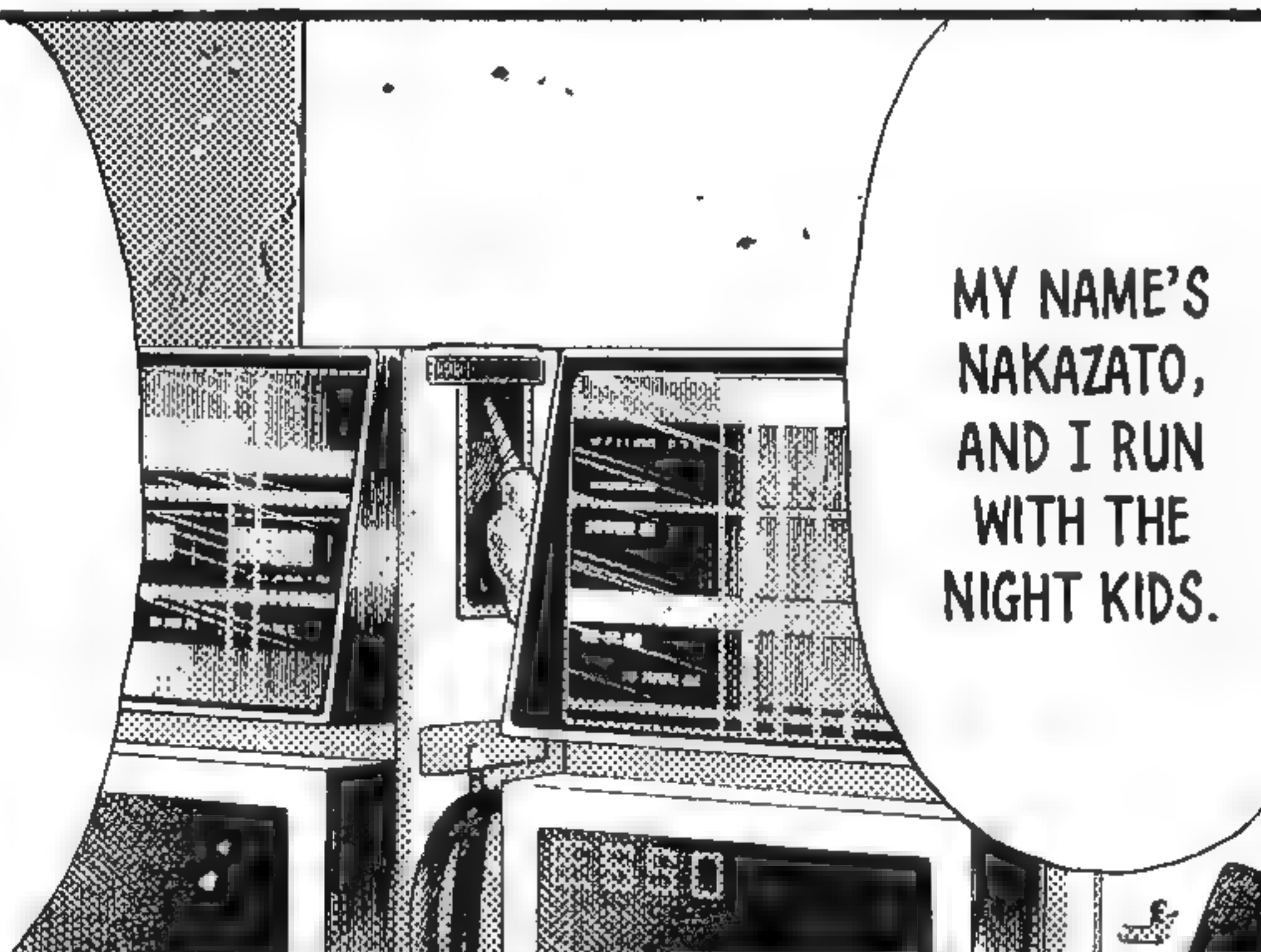


IF YOU'RE  
LOOKING FOR  
THE PREMIUM  
STUFF, IT'S  
OVER HERE...

HELLO  
THERE!



SOMEONE  
TOLD ME THAT IF  
I WENT TO THIS  
GAS STATION,  
I COULD GET IN  
TOUCH WITH THE  
SPEED STARS.



MY NAME'S  
NAKAZATO,  
AND I RUN  
WITH THE  
NIGHT KIDS.



WHEN  
SHOULD  
I SHOW UP  
ON AKINA  
TO FIND THE  
INFAMOUS  
EIGHT-SIX?

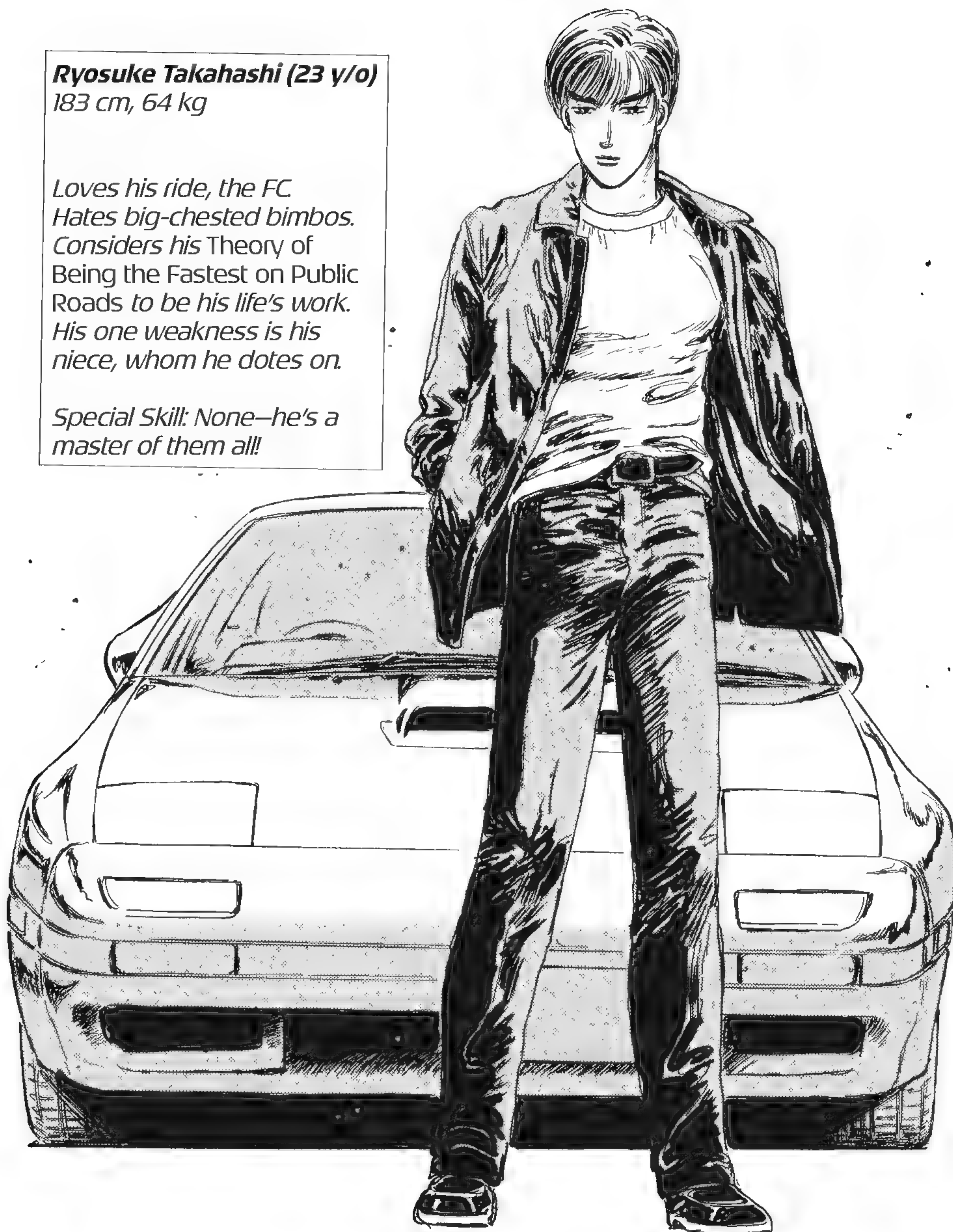
SO  
TELL ME  
SOME-  
THING...



**Ryosuke Takahashi (23 y/o)**  
183 cm, 64 kg

*Loves his ride, the FC  
Hates big-chested bimbos.  
Considers his Theory of  
Being the Fastest on Public  
Roads to be his life's work.  
His one weakness is his  
niece, whom he dotes on.*

*Special Skill: None—he's a  
master of them all!*







AREN'T YOU A MEMBER OF THE SPEED STARS?

SOME-THING NOT GETTING THROUGH TO YOU?

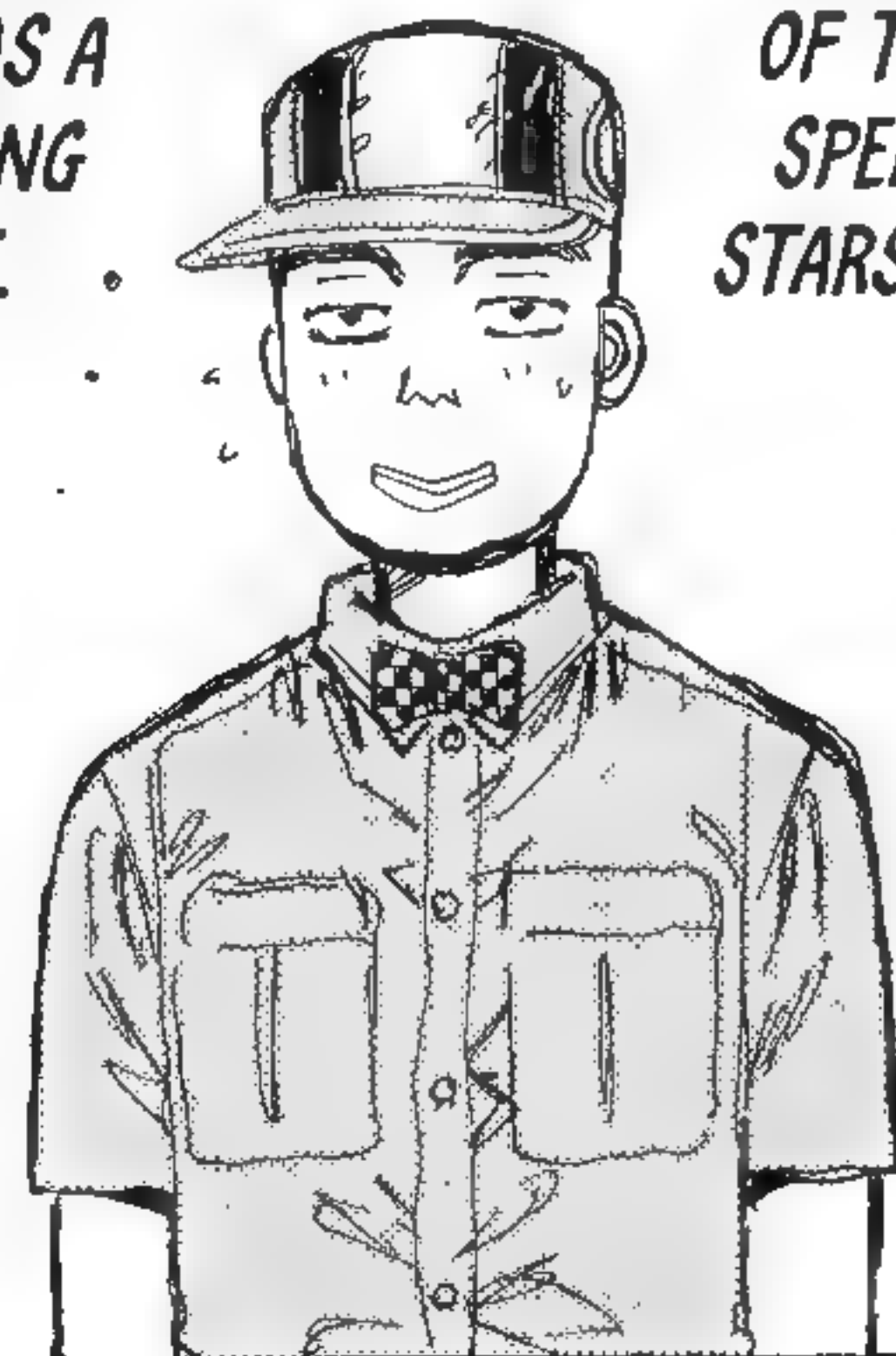


...BUT MAYBE I'VE GOT THE WRONG GAS STATION.

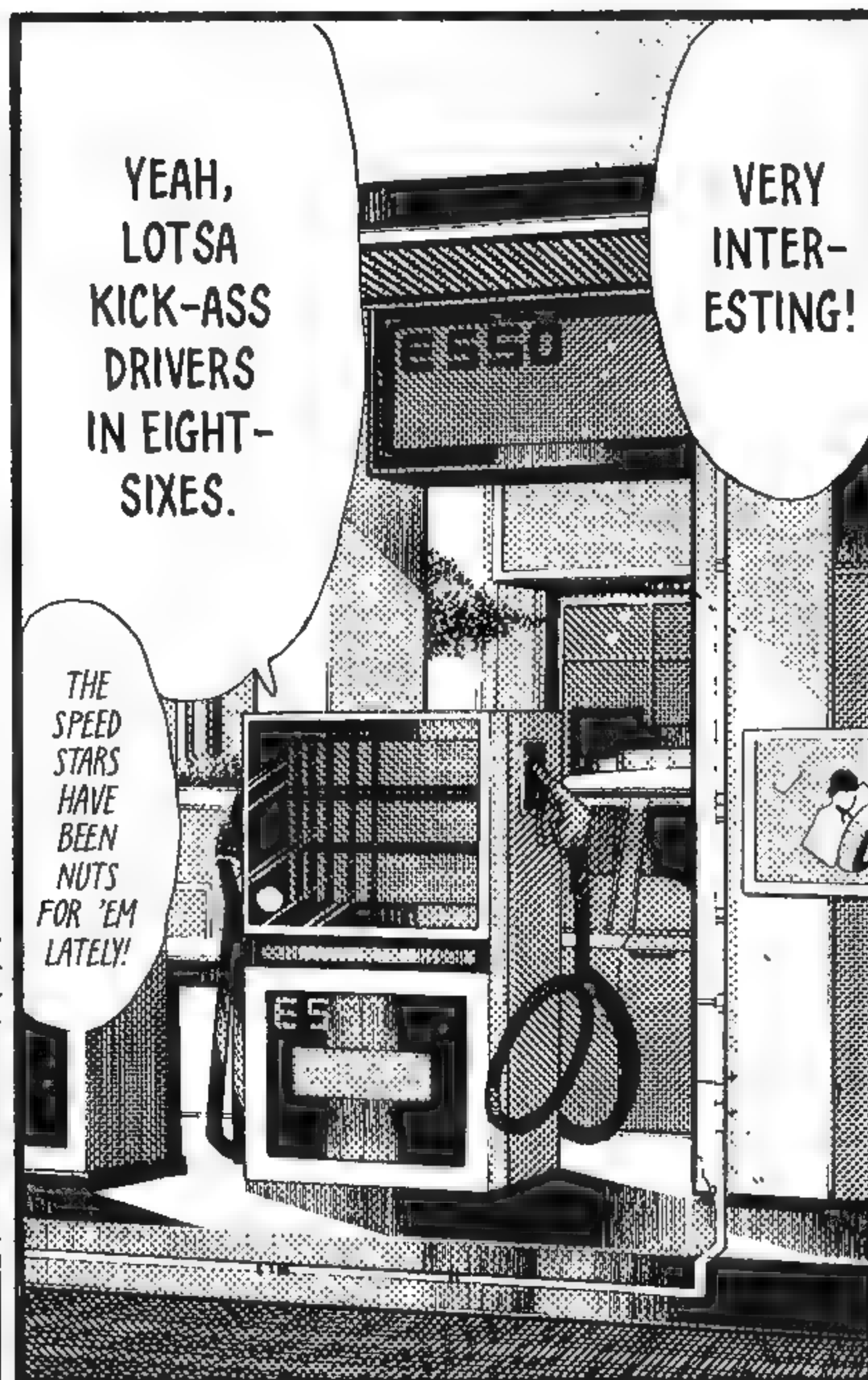
THEY TOLD ME THAT IF I CAME HERE, I'D BE ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE SPEED STARS...

OOH... NOW THAT HAS A NICE RING TO IT.

"A MEMBER OF THE SPEED STARS"...











PERFECT!

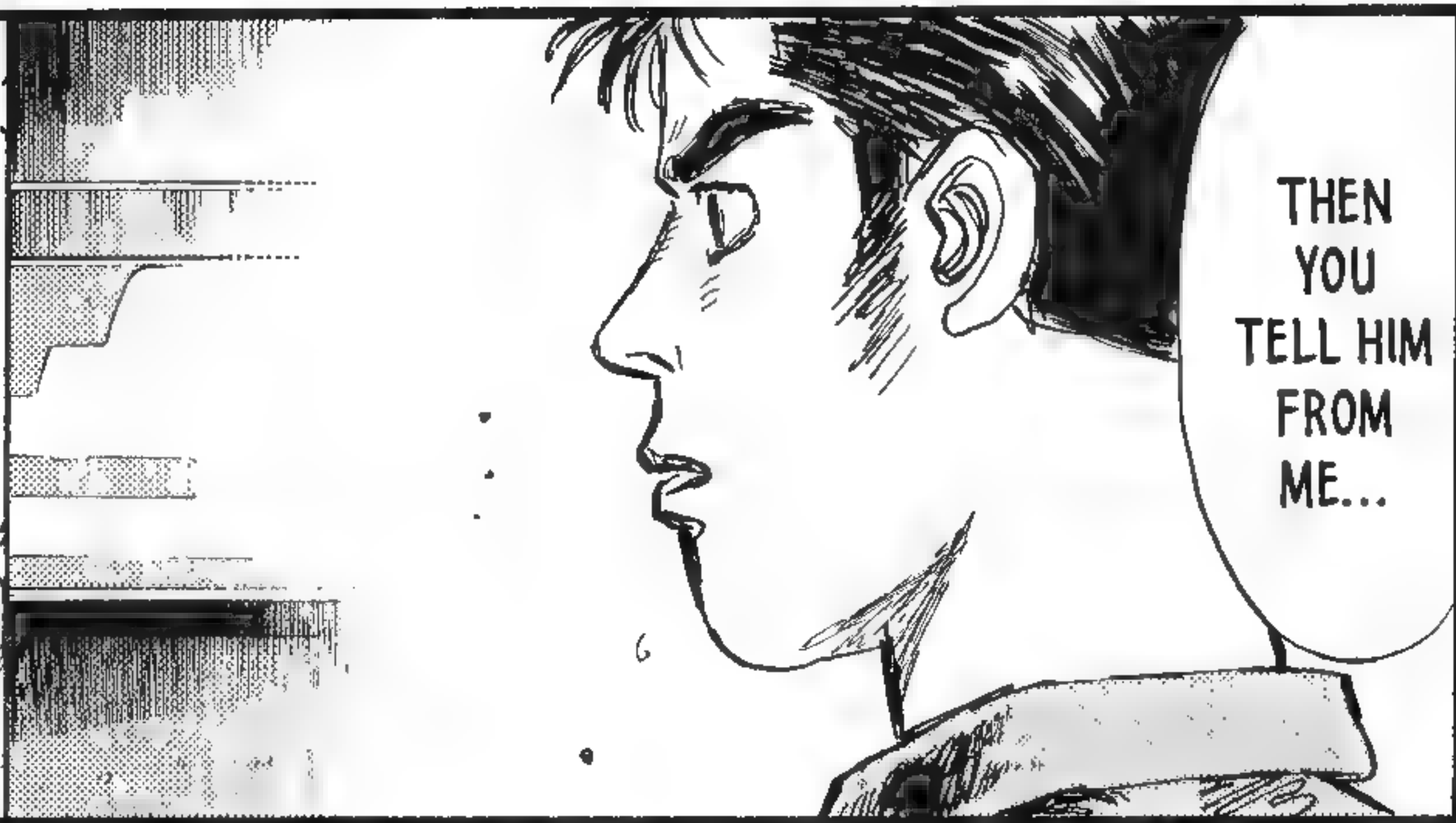


SINCE I'M  
SUCH GREAT  
FRIENDS  
WITH  
THAT GUY,  
Y'KNOW!

ANYWAY, SURE,  
I CAN PUT YOU  
IN TOUCH WITH  
THE PANDA  
TRUENO.



NEXT  
SATURDAY  
AT TEN  
PM...



THEN  
YOU  
TELL HIM  
FROM  
ME...



HUH?!

SO YOU'RE  
SAYING...

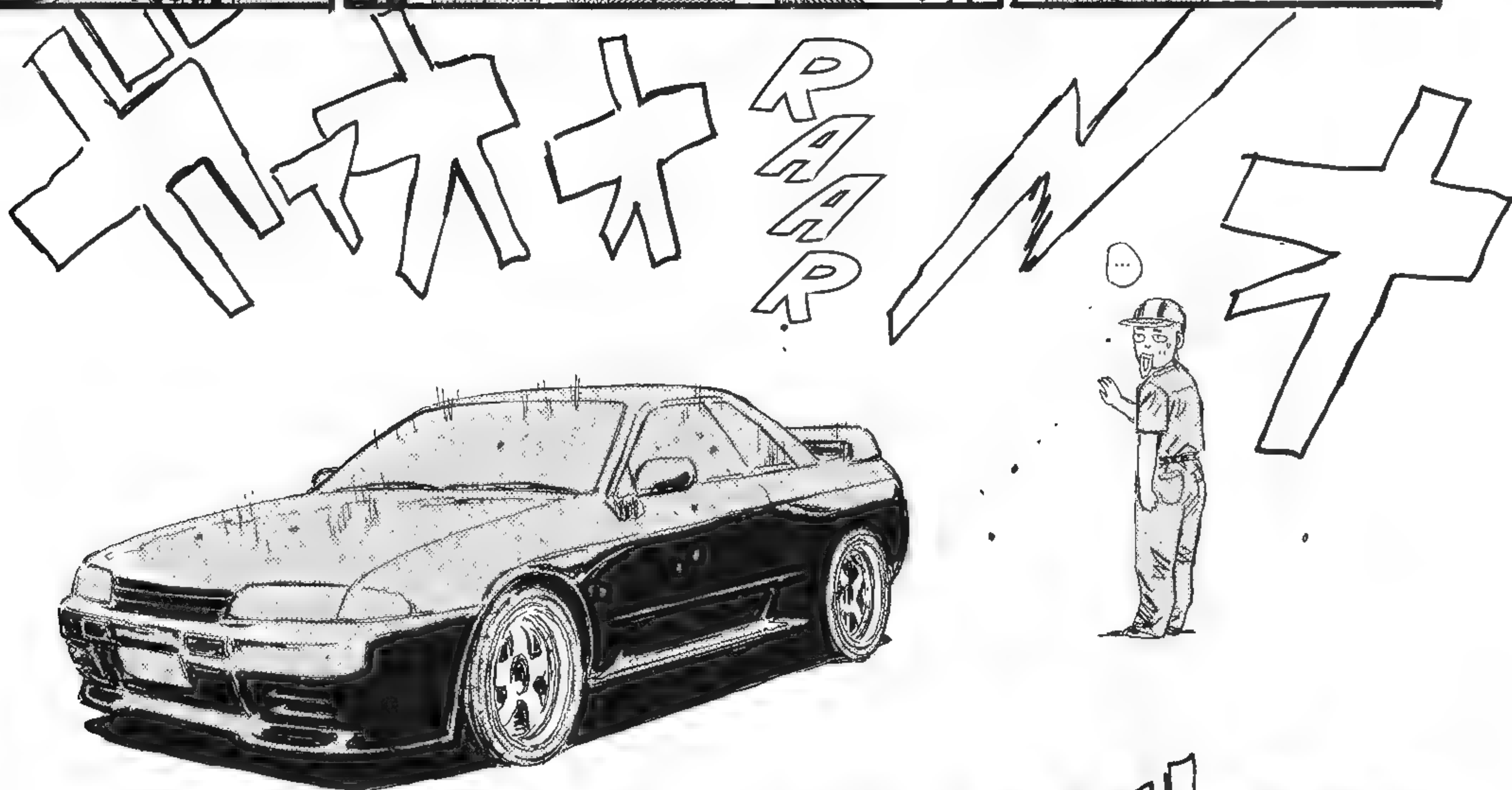
WAIT!  
UH...



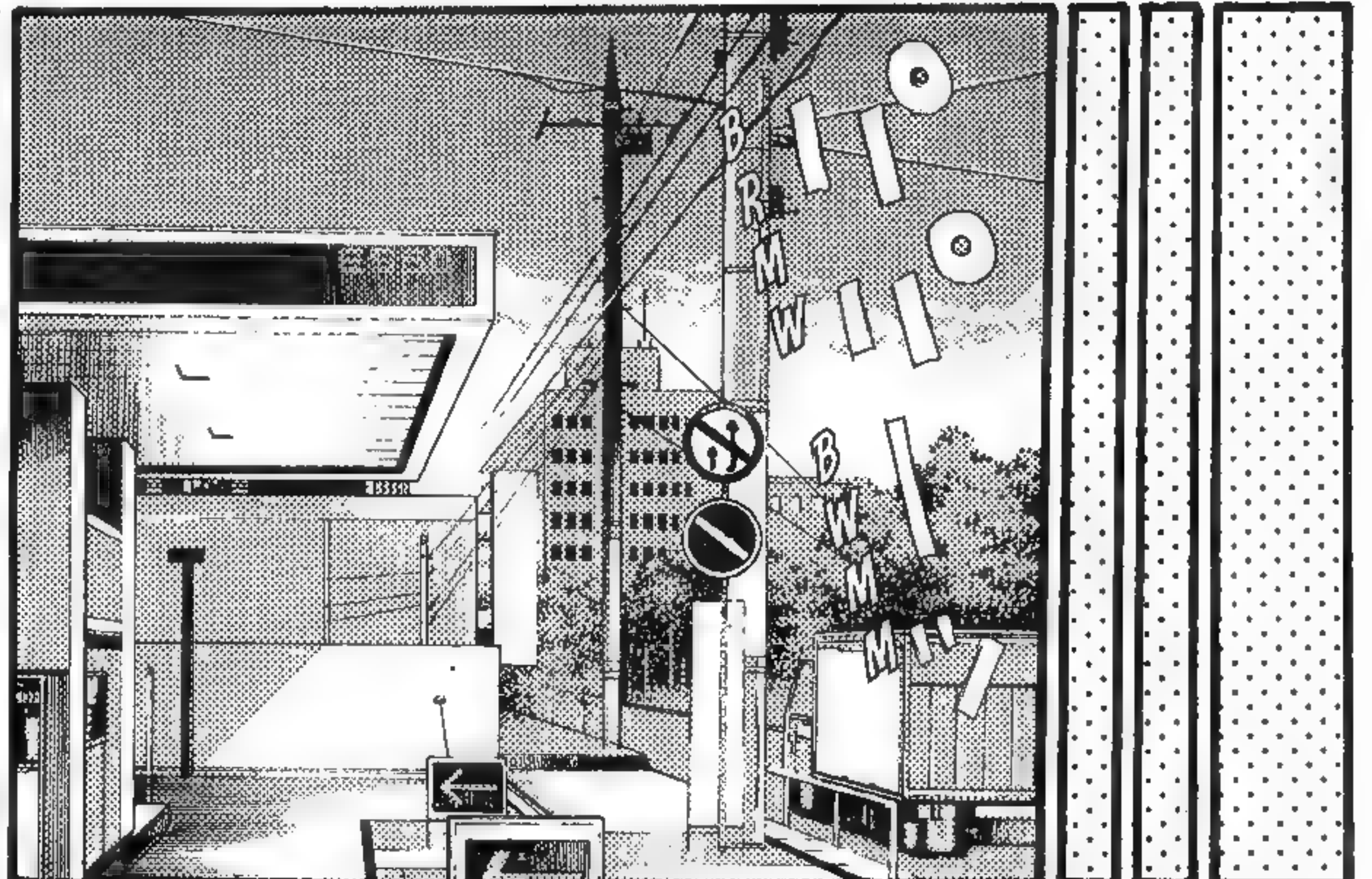
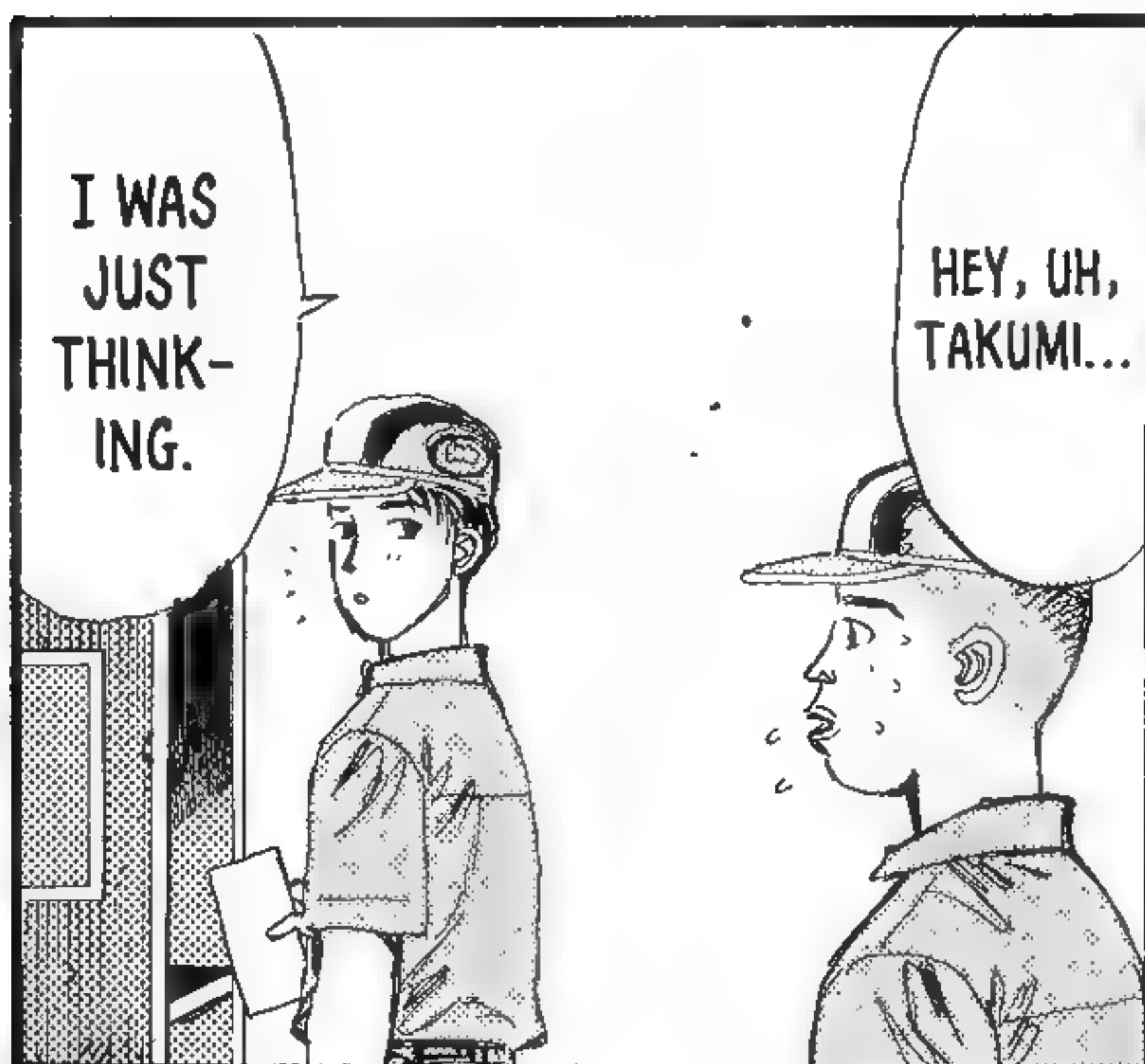
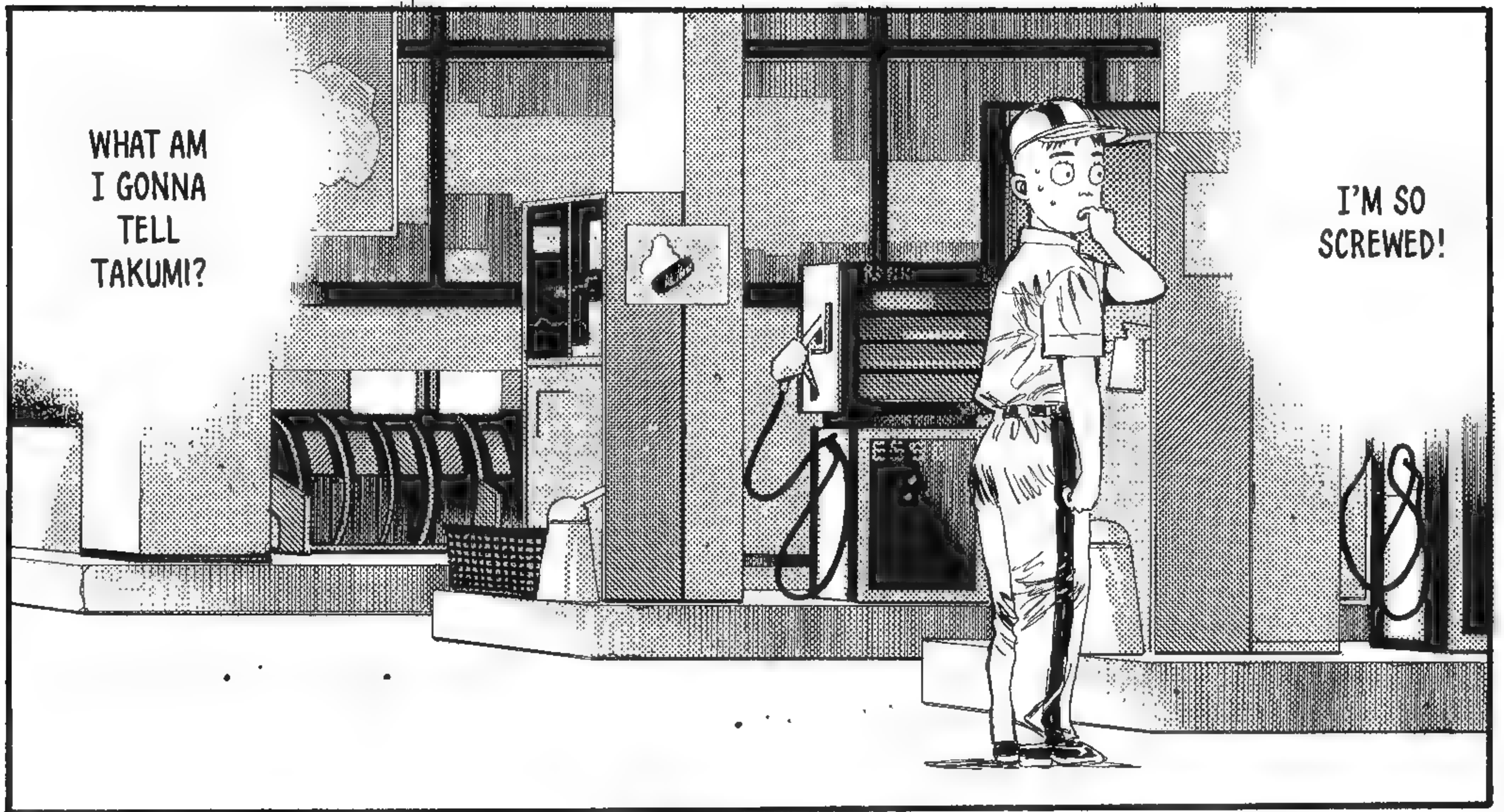
IT'S HIM  
AND ME—  
ONE RUN  
DOWN-  
HILL!

...NAKAZATO  
OF THE NIGHT  
KIDS WILL BE  
WAITING AT THE  
TOP OF MOUNT  
AKINA.

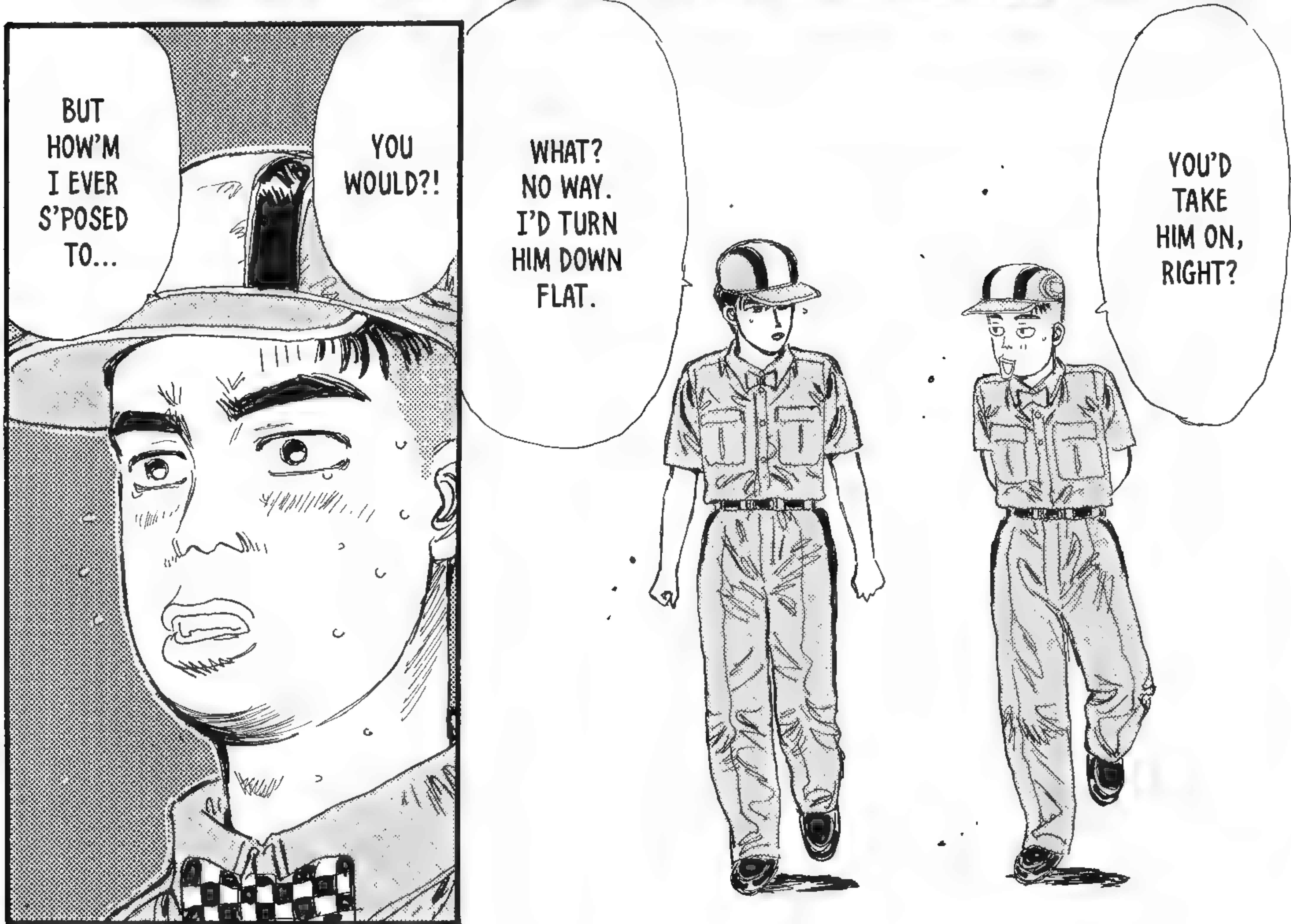
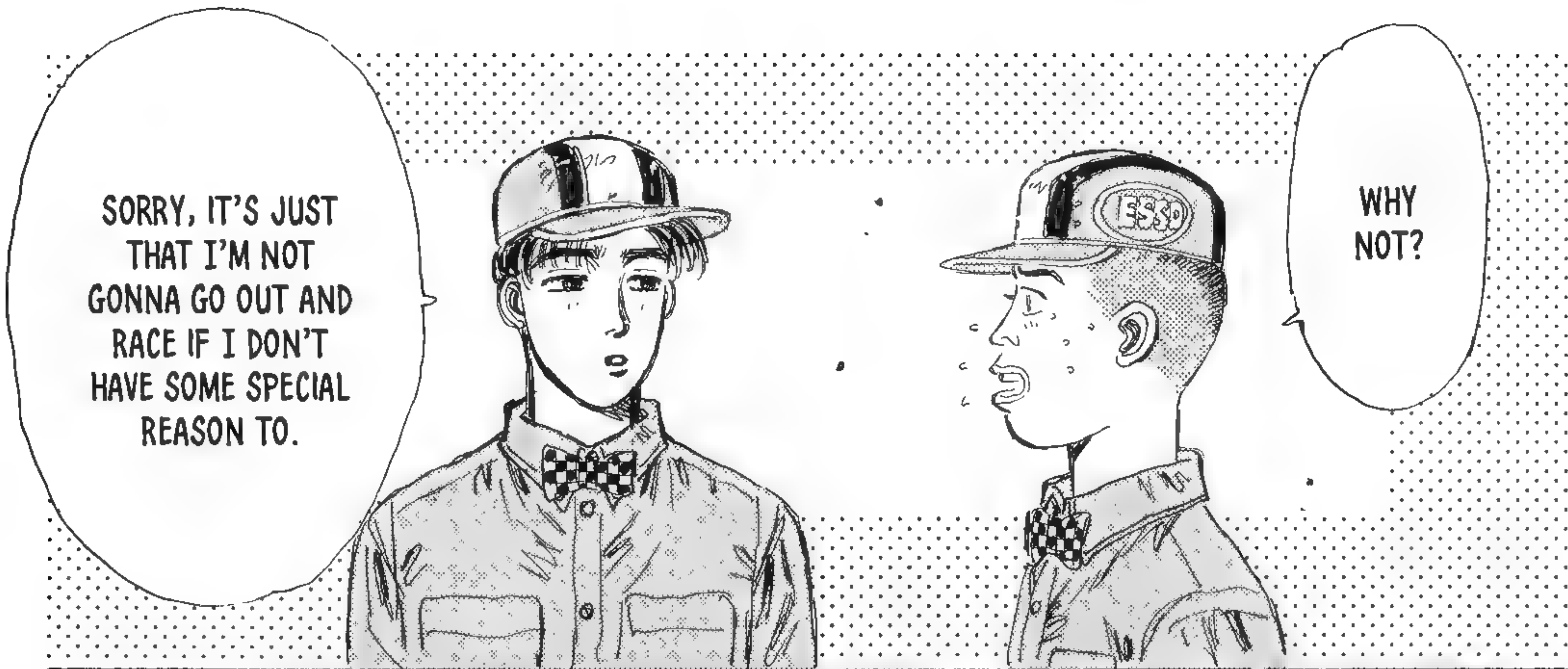




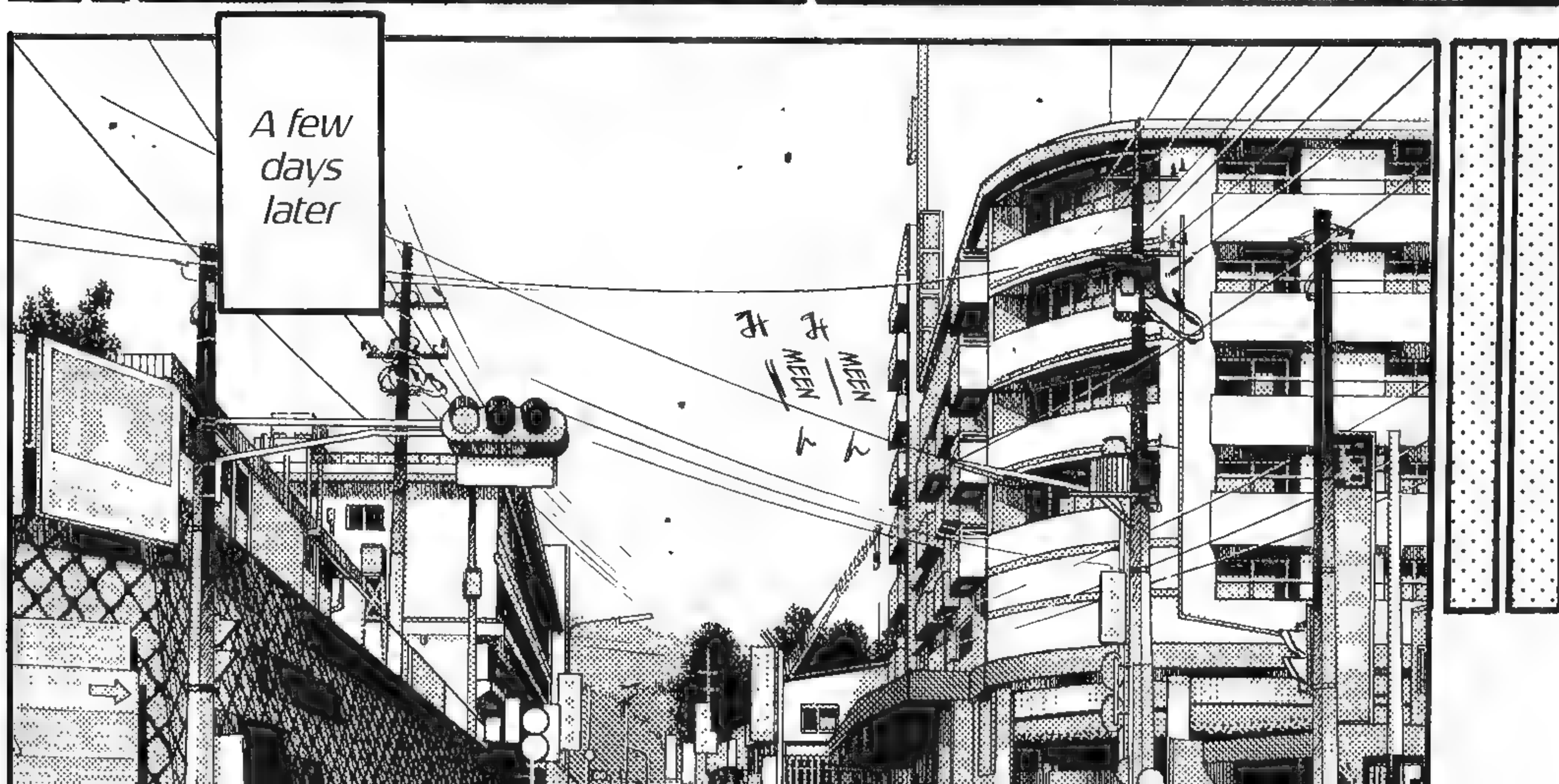
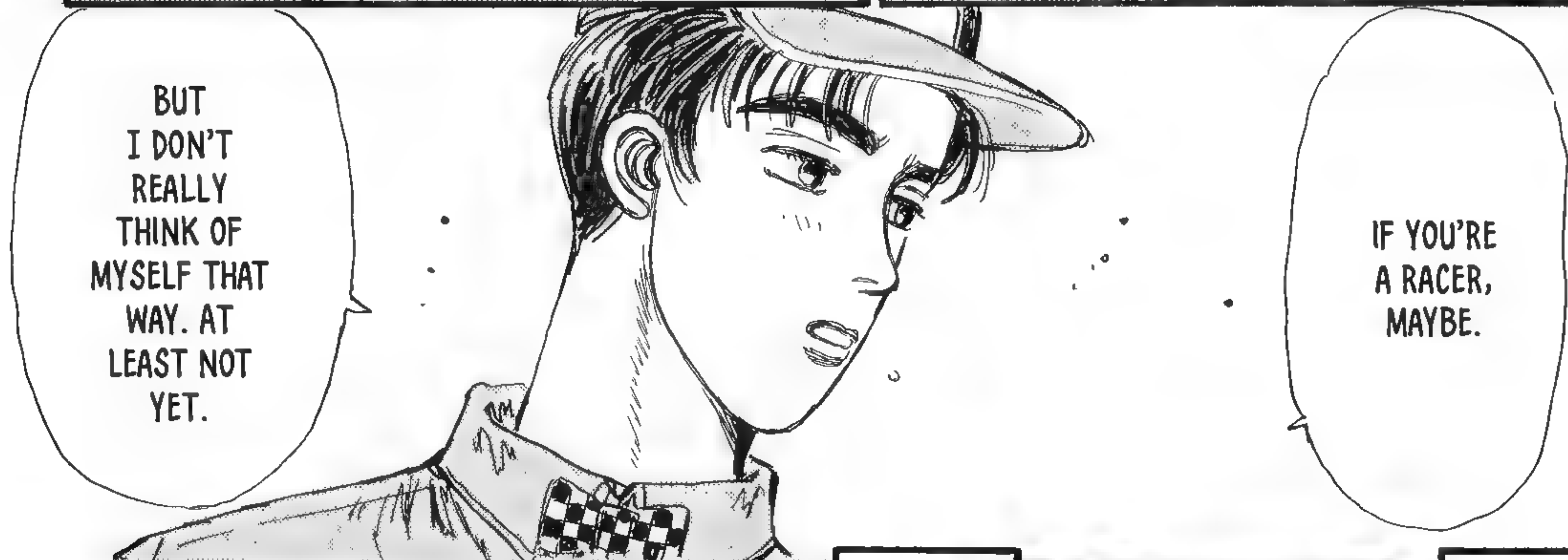
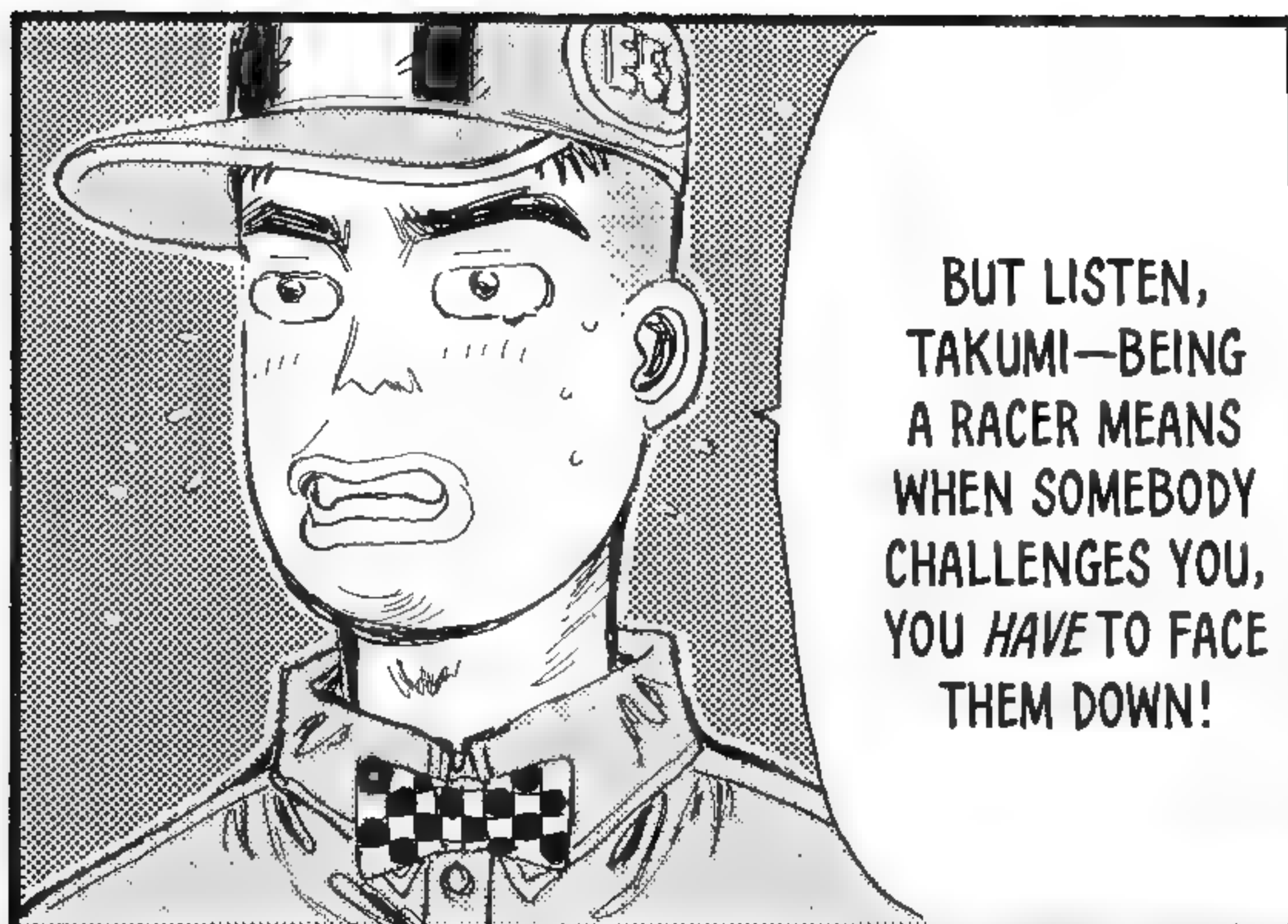




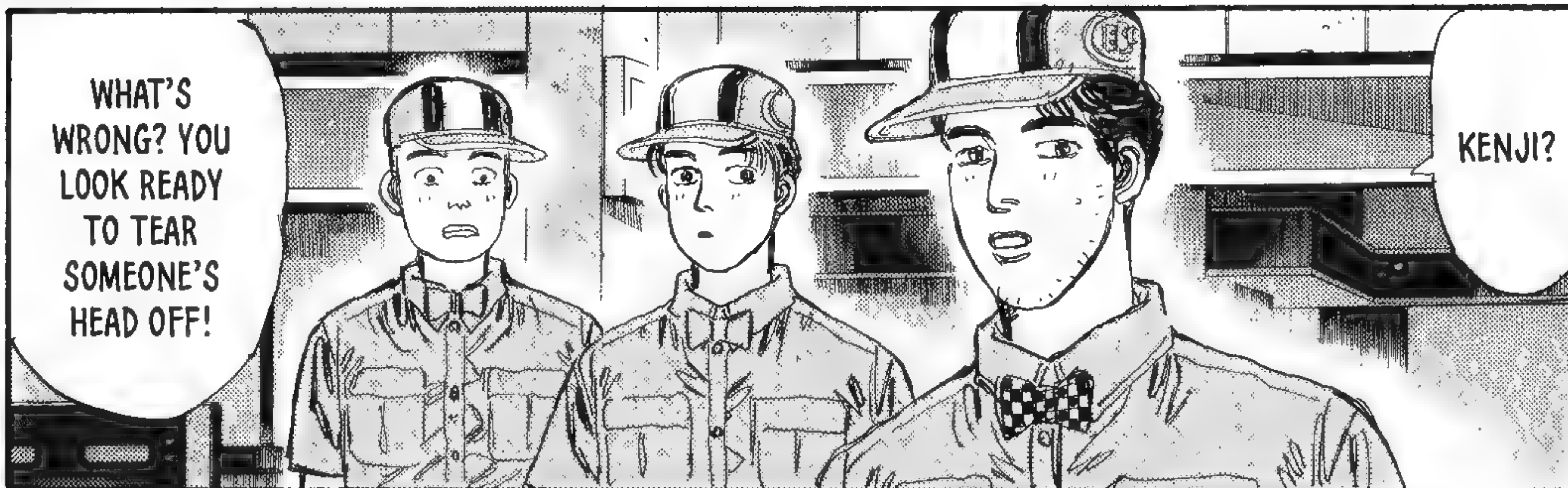




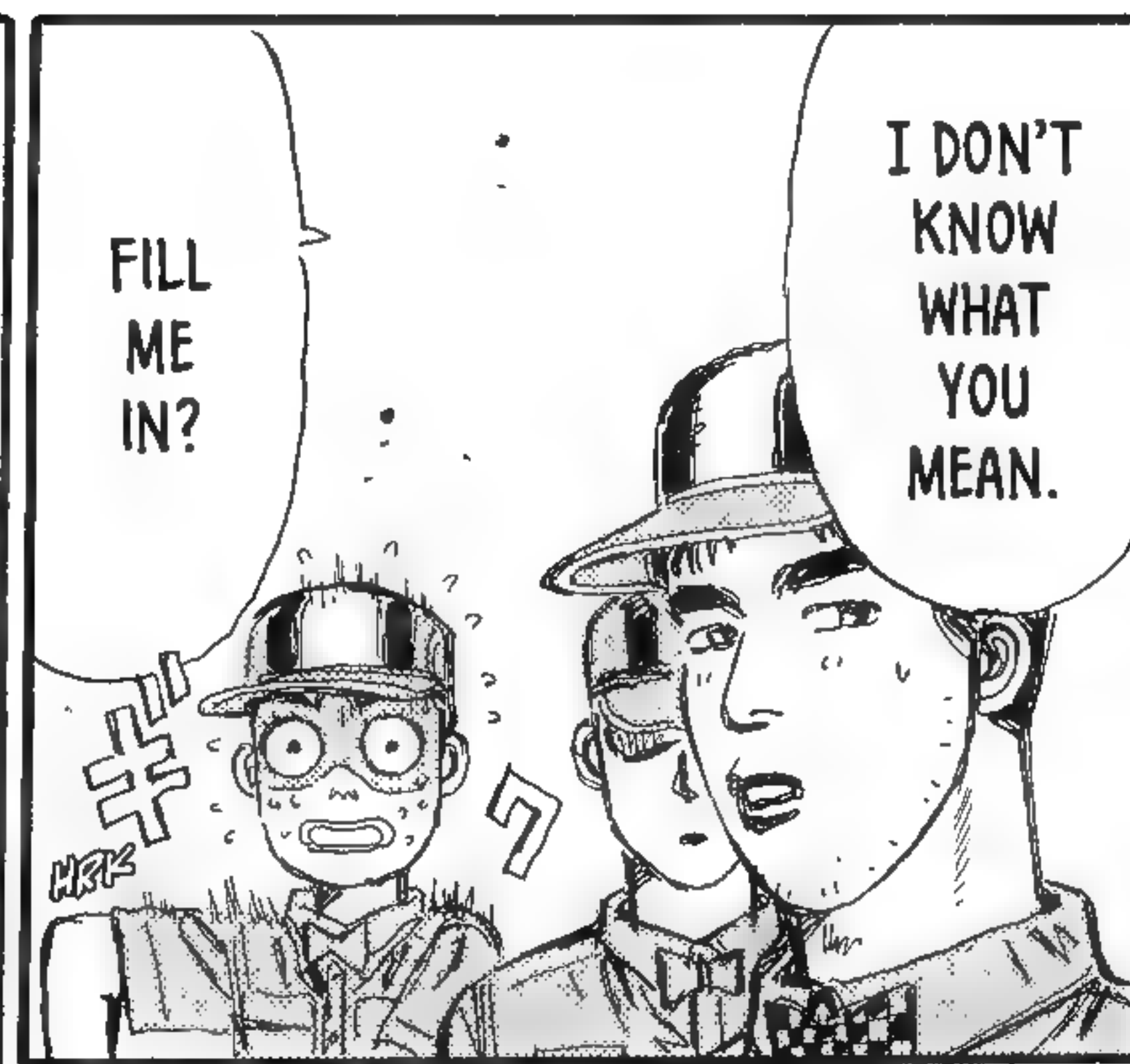
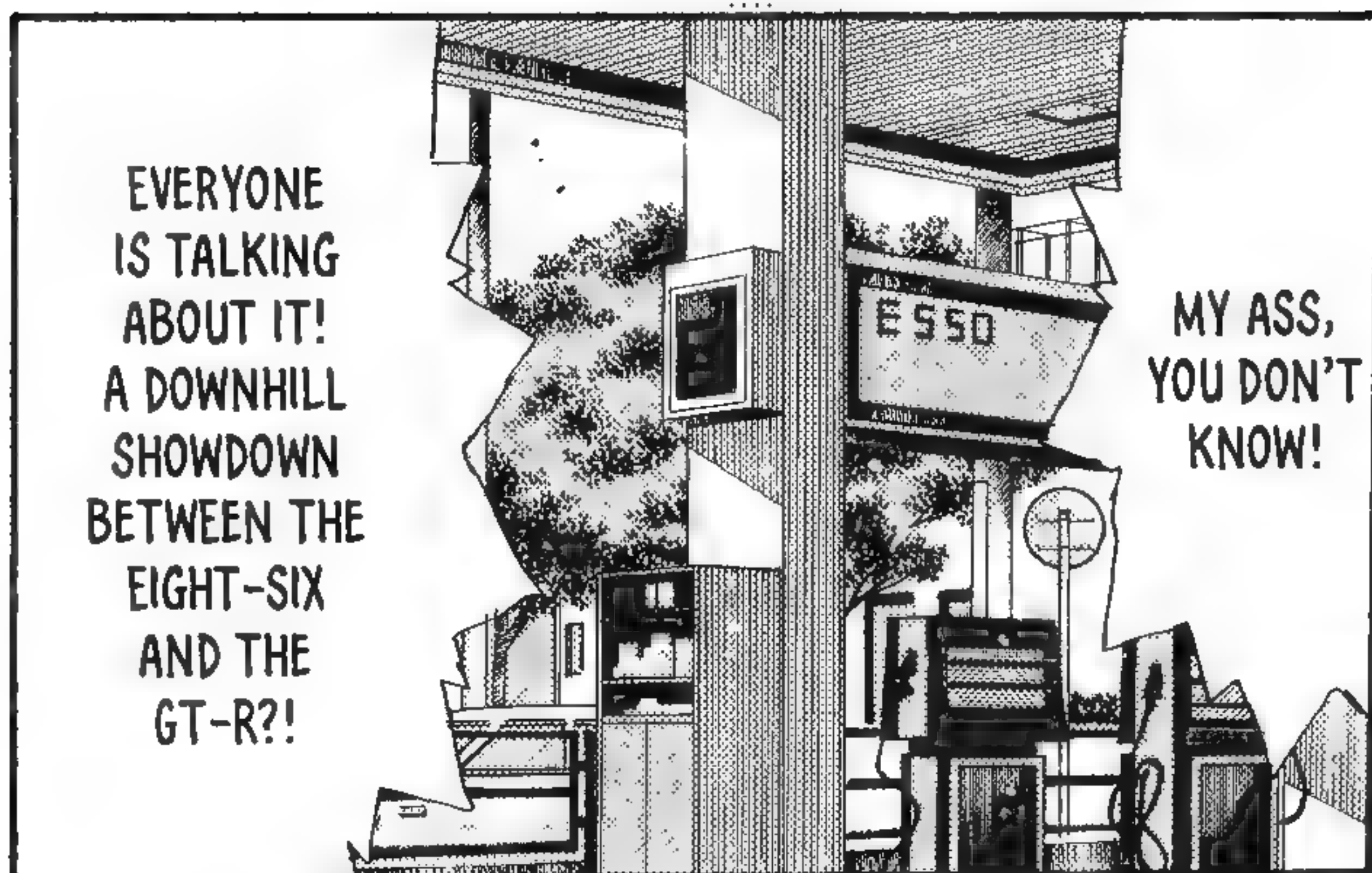




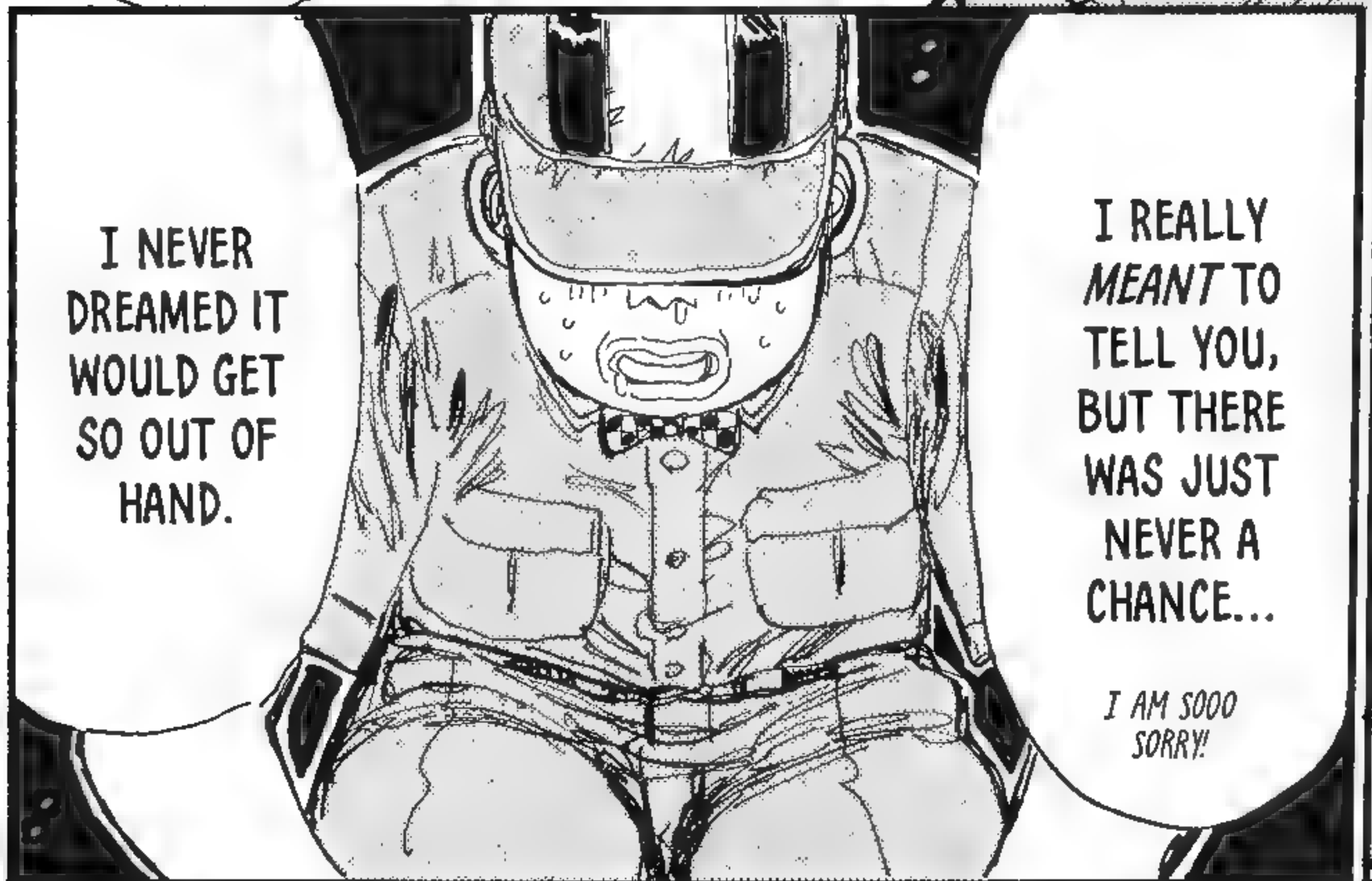
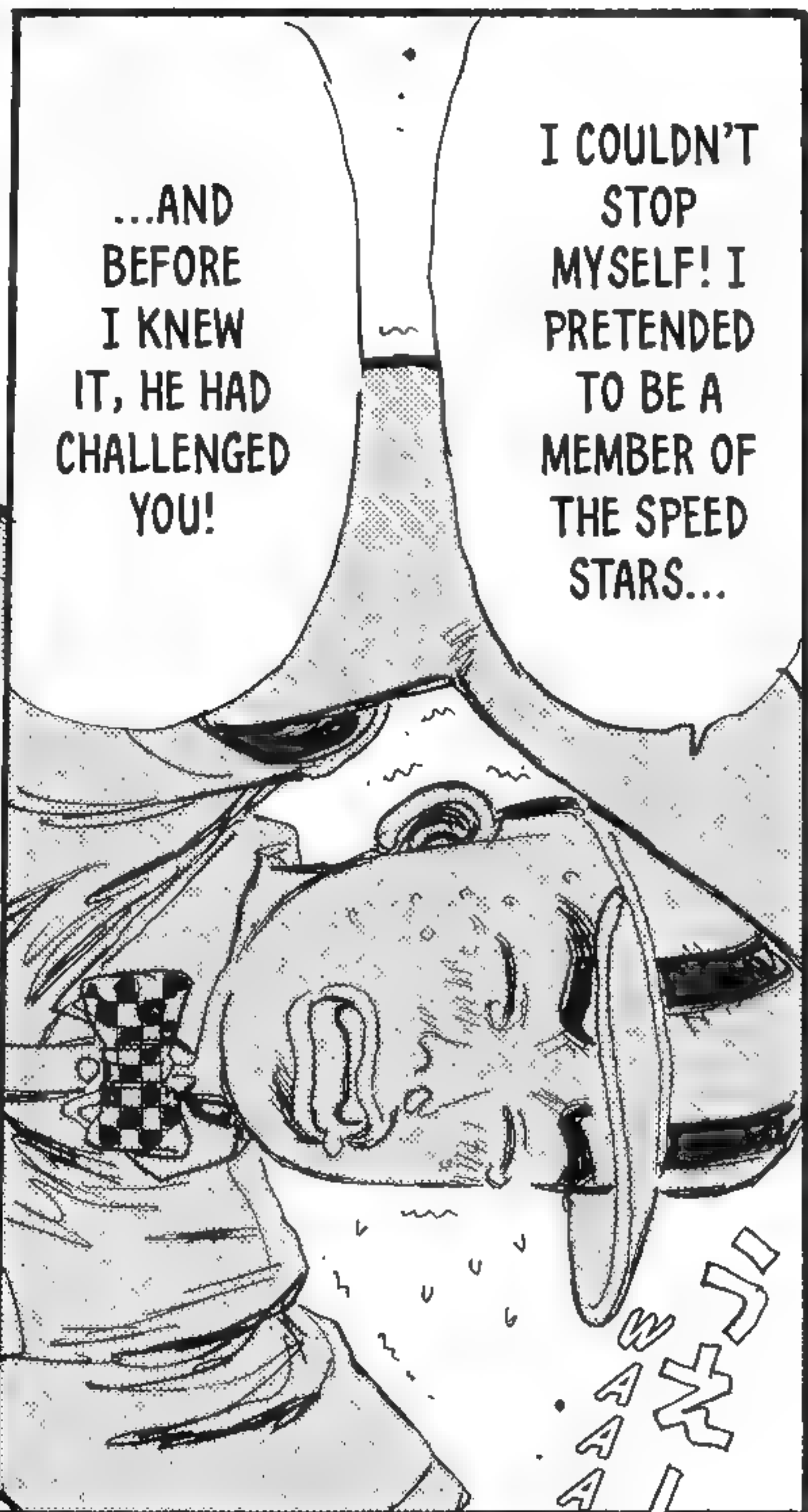
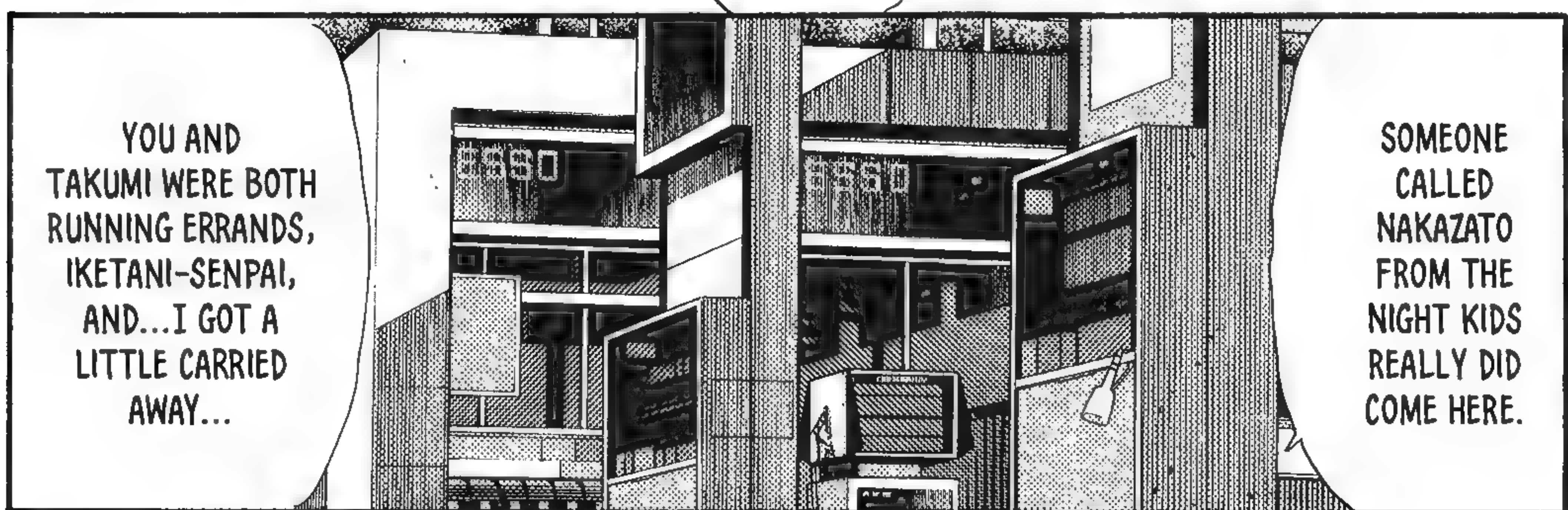




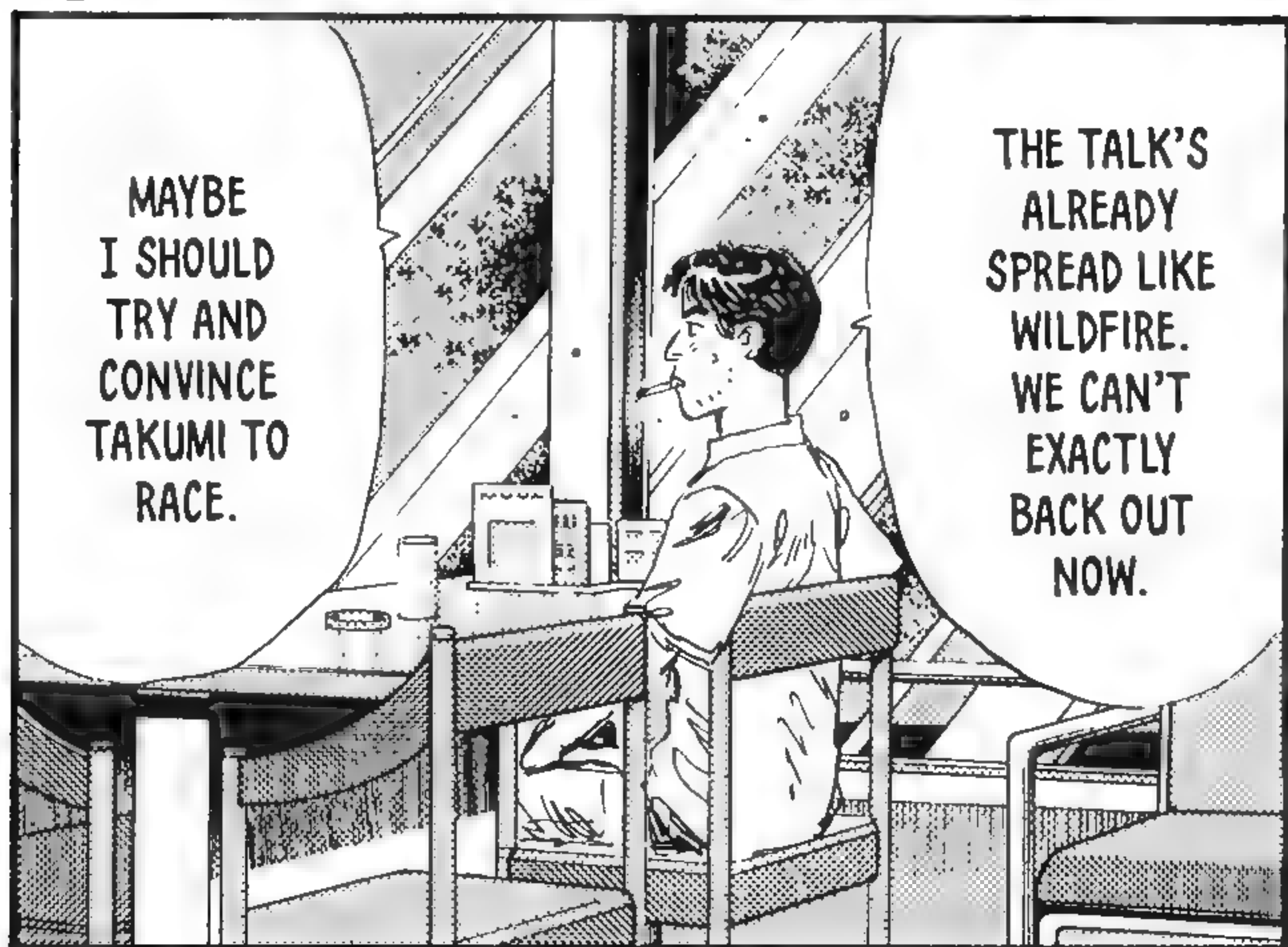
















NAKAZATO OF  
THE NIGHT KIDS  
IS ALMOST AS  
FAMOUS AS  
THE TAKAHASHI  
BROTHERS ARE  
ON AKAGI.

YEAH, BUT  
AGAINST THE  
GT-R? EVEN  
TAKUMI'S  
GOING TO HAVE  
HIS WORK CUT  
OUT FOR HIM.



WHAT  
THE  
HELL  
DO WE  
DO...?

I HEAR  
YOU.

AND  
IT'S NOT  
FAIR TO ASK  
TAKUMI TO DO  
SOMETHING  
THAT CAN'T  
BE DONE,  
IS IT?

IT  
MIGHT  
NOT  
EVEN BE  
POSSIBLE.

IT'S  
NOT  
GOING  
TO BE  
PRETTY.



Mount  
Akina...

PSSH  
PSSSHH



MAN, I'M  
SO GONNA  
BE THERE!  
I CAN'T  
WAIT!

I HEAR HE'S  
GOING TO HAVE A  
SHOWDOWN WITH  
THE EIGHT-SIX  
FROM THE SPEED  
STARS NEXT  
SATURDAY!

YEAH.  
THAT'S  
NAKAZATO  
FROM THE  
NIGHT KIDS,  
ISN'T IT?

HEY,  
LOOK! THE  
GT-R'S  
BACK  
AGAIN!

DON'T  
BLINK, THAT  
WOULD BE MY  
ADVICE. THAT  
MATCHUP  
COULD BLOW  
UP ANY  
SECOND!

SO NAKAZATO  
IS GOING TO  
TAKE A CRACK  
AT THE EIGHT-  
SIX THAT  
EVEN KEISUKE  
TAKAHASHI  
COULDN'T  
BEAT, HUH?

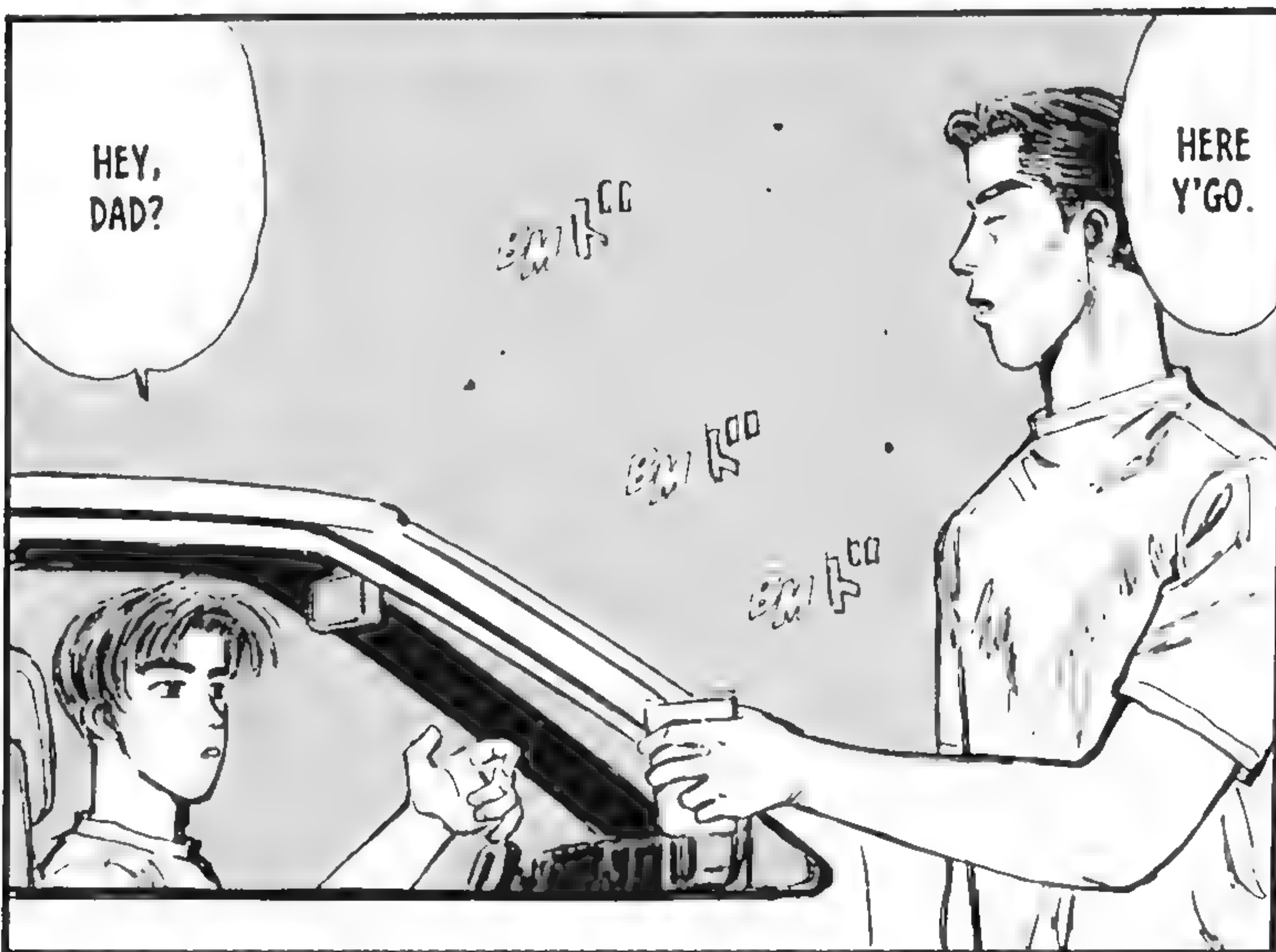
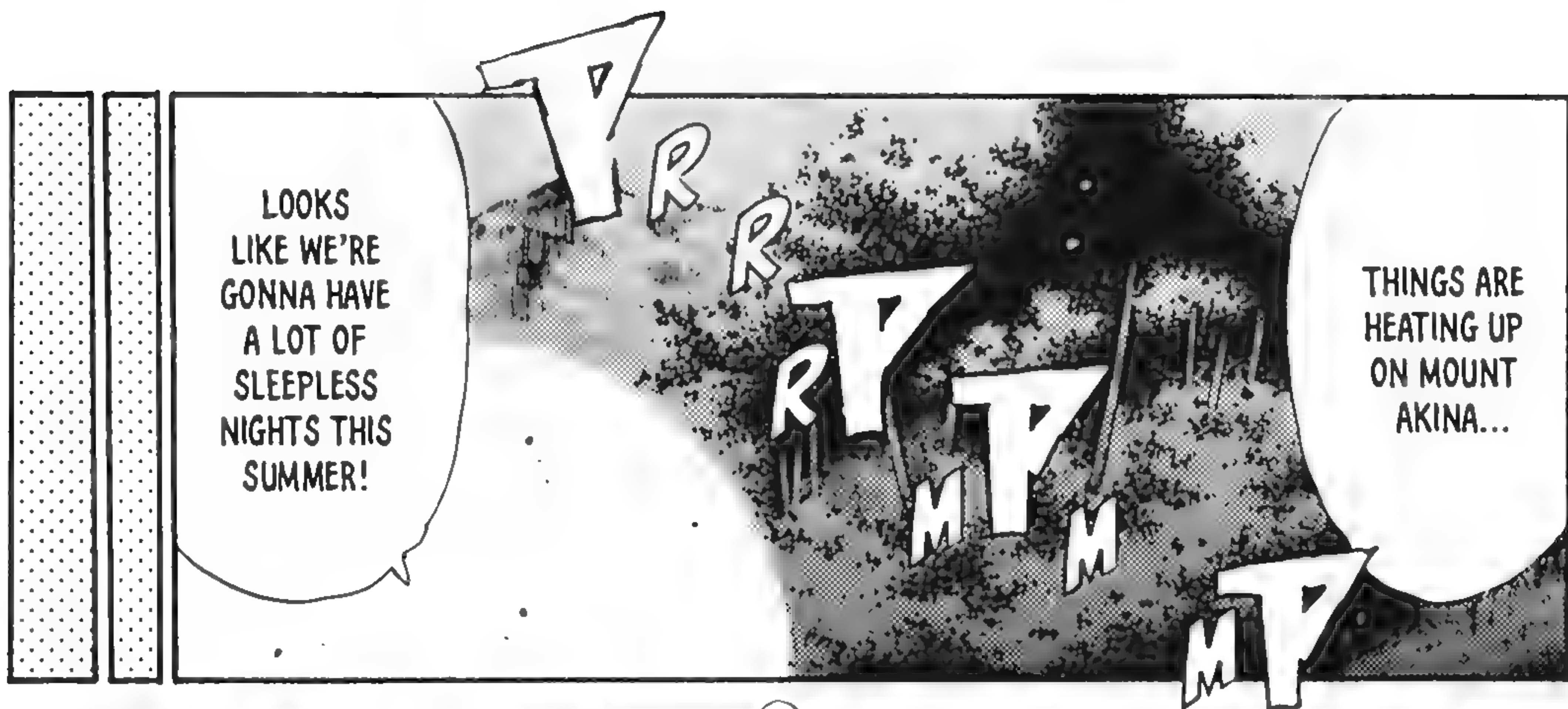
...BUT JUST  
UNDERNEATH THAT,  
IT'S REALLY ABOUT  
NAKAZATO VERSUS  
THE TAKAHASHI  
BROTHERS. THERE'S  
A LOT OF PRIDE ON  
THE LINE HERE.

ON THE  
SURFACE,  
THIS IS  
A RACE  
BETWEEN  
THE SPEED  
STARS AND  
THE NIGHT  
KIDS...

THIS IS  
GONNA BE  
GREAT!

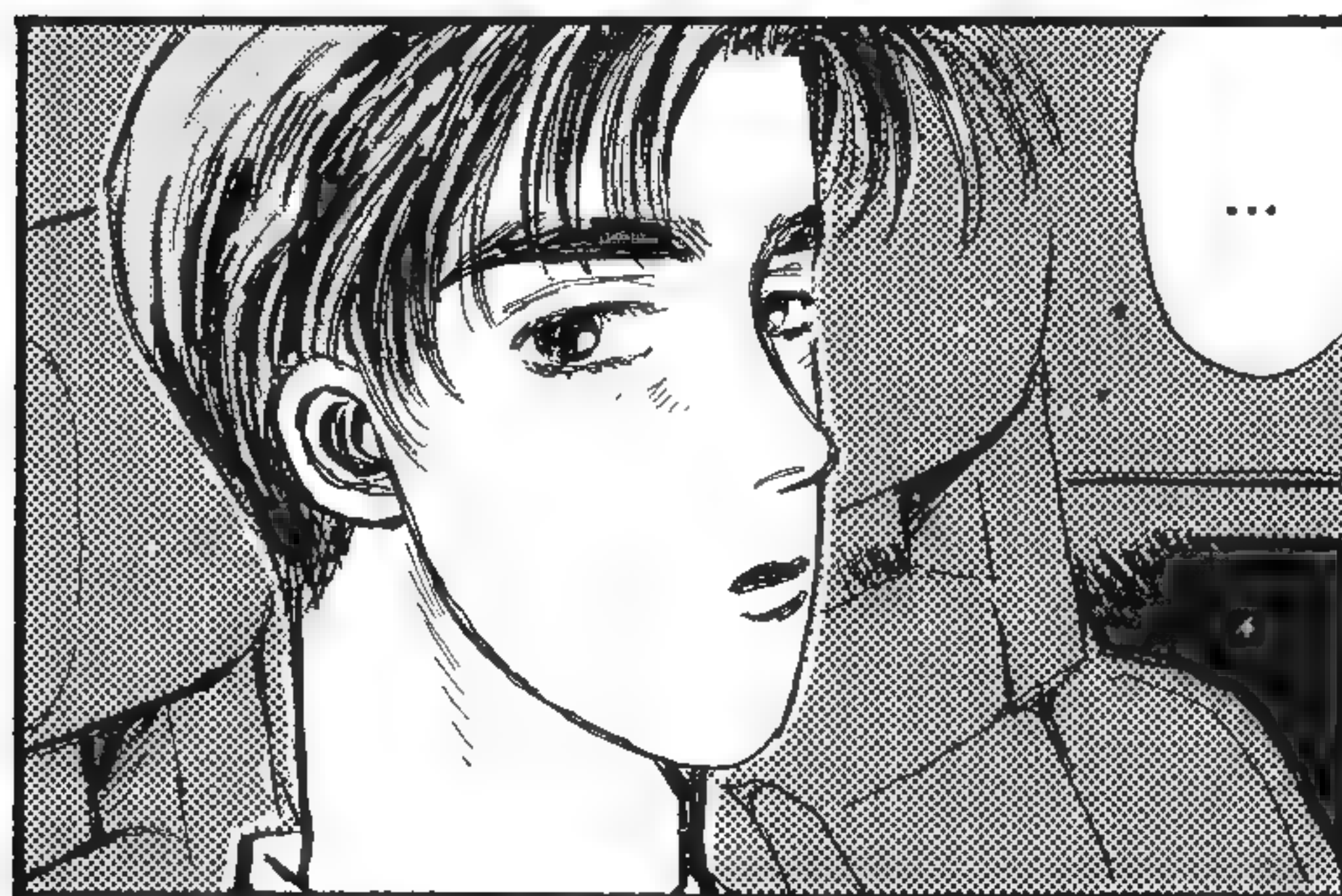
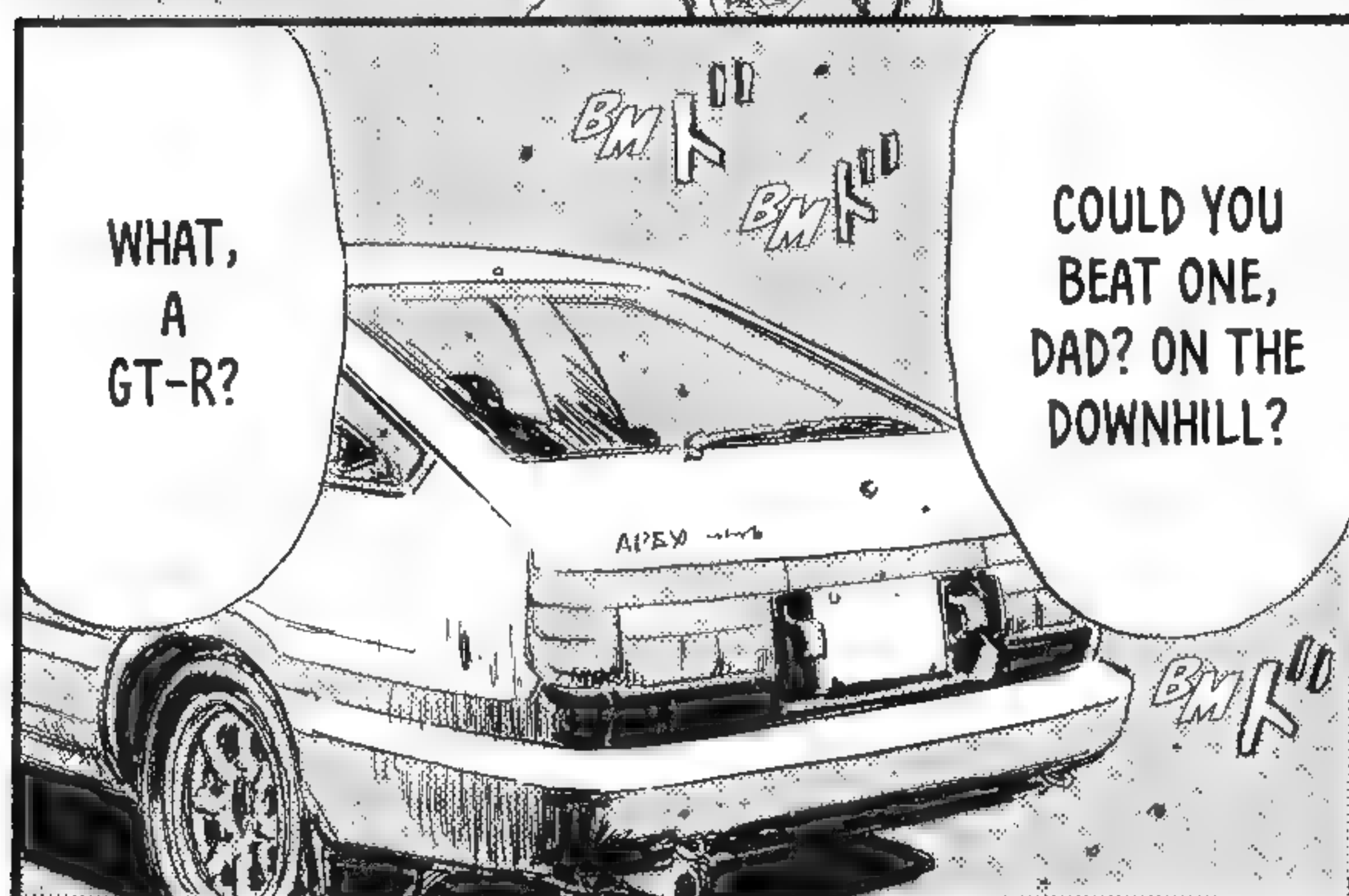
WHOEVER WINS  
THIS, YOU CAN  
BET RYOSUKE  
TAKAHASHI WON'T  
JUST STAND BY  
AND WATCH.



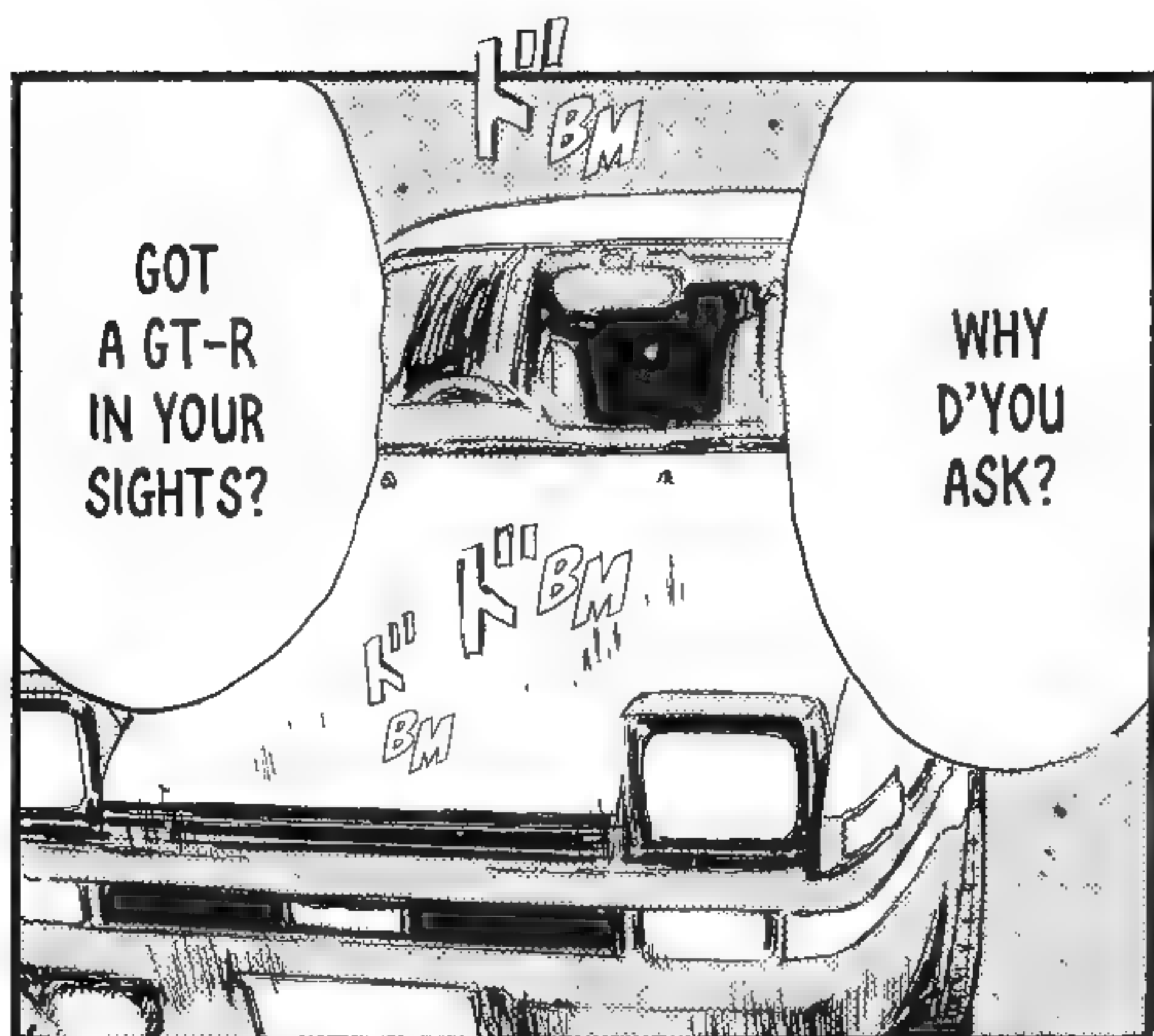


He gives Takumi different amounts of water each day.









GOT  
A GT-R  
IN YOUR  
SIGHTS?

WHY  
D'YOU  
ASK?



IT'D BE  
ONE  
CLOSE  
CALL,  
THAT'S  
FOR  
SURE.

THAT,  
I DON'T  
KNOW.



SEE  
YOU.

NO  
REASON.  
JUST  
WONDER-  
ING.



MAYBE I'LL  
JUST TINKER  
WITH THE  
EIGHT-SIX'S  
TUNE A BIT...

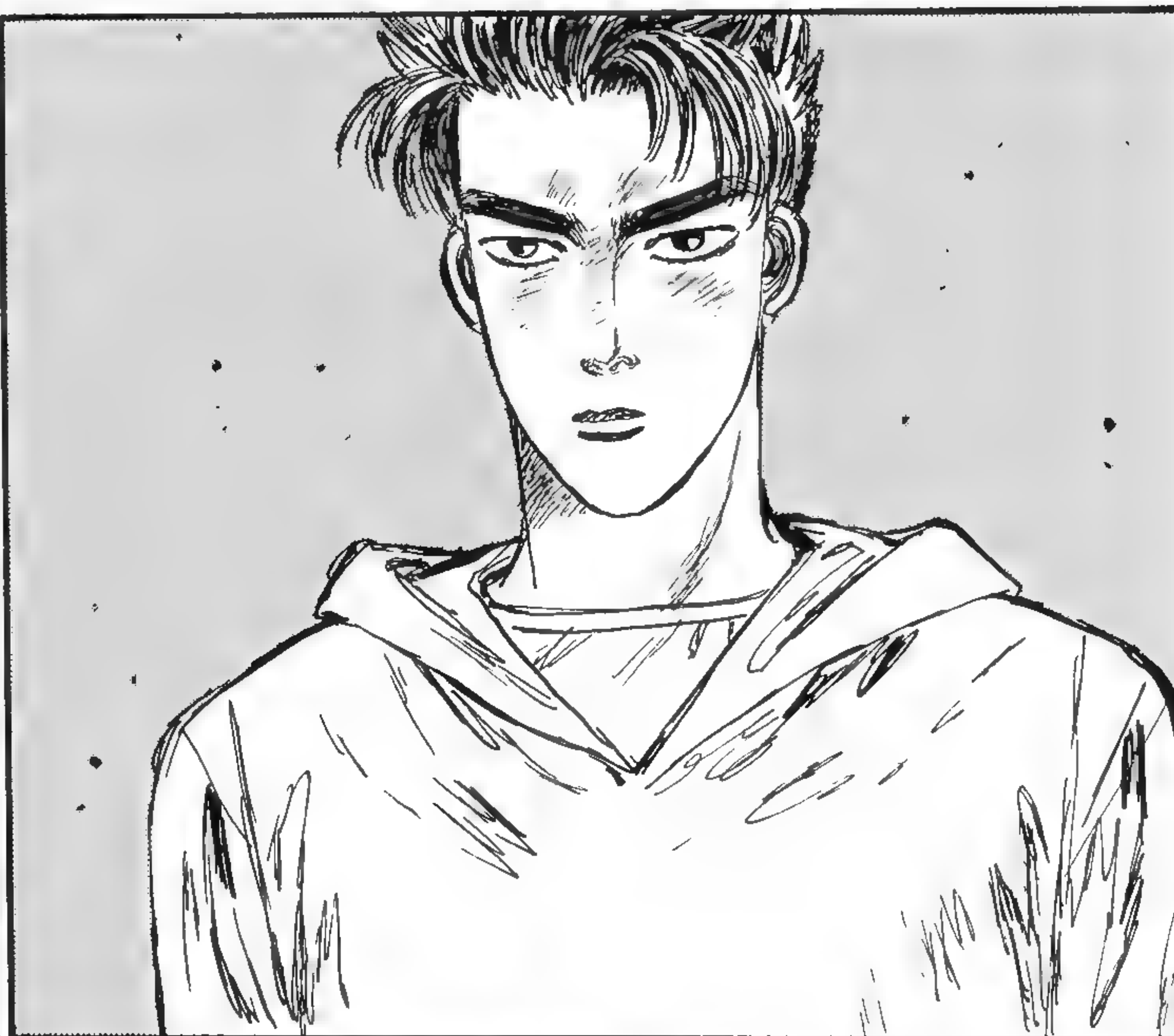
SO IT'S  
A GT-R  
NEXT,  
HUH?







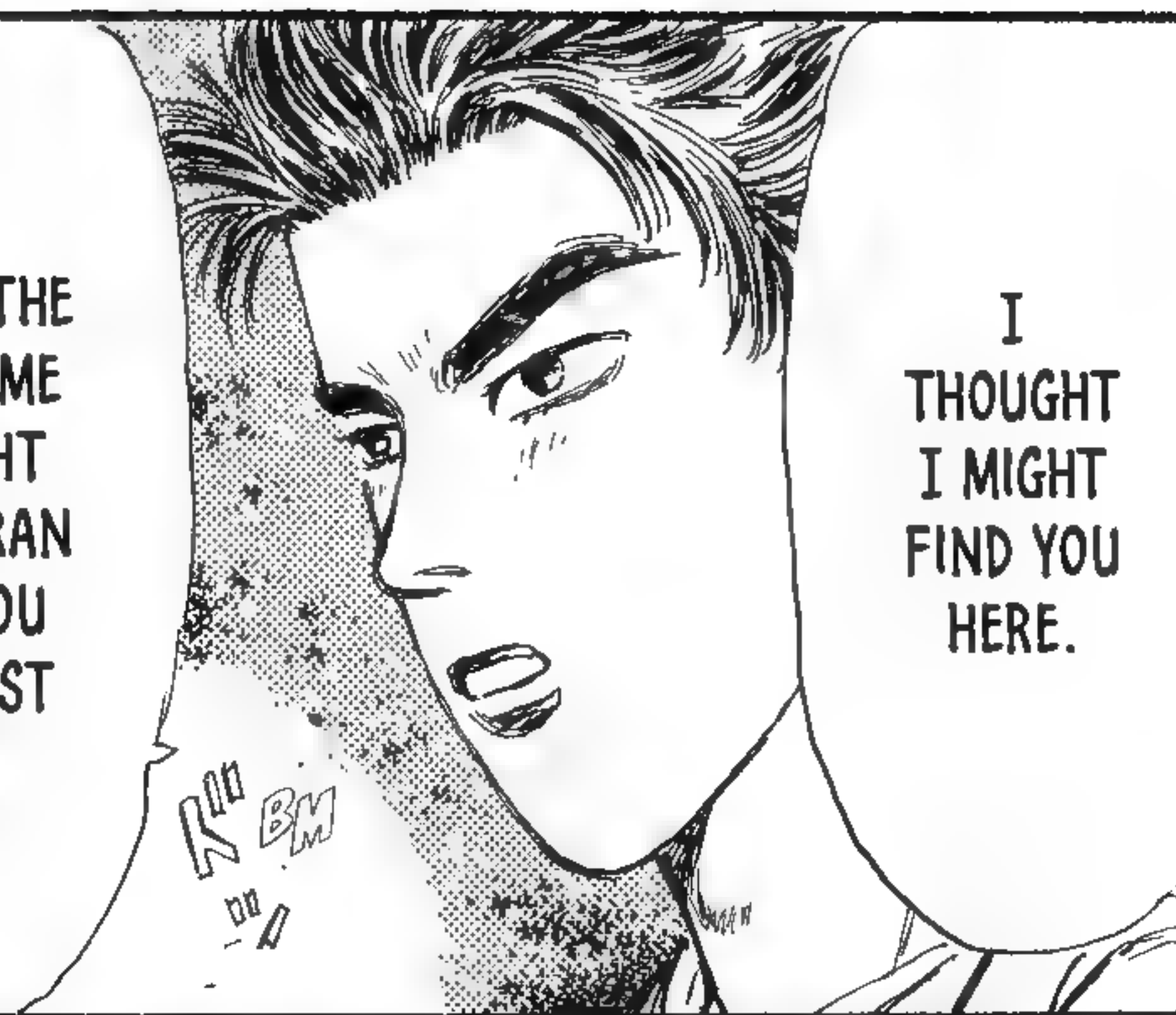




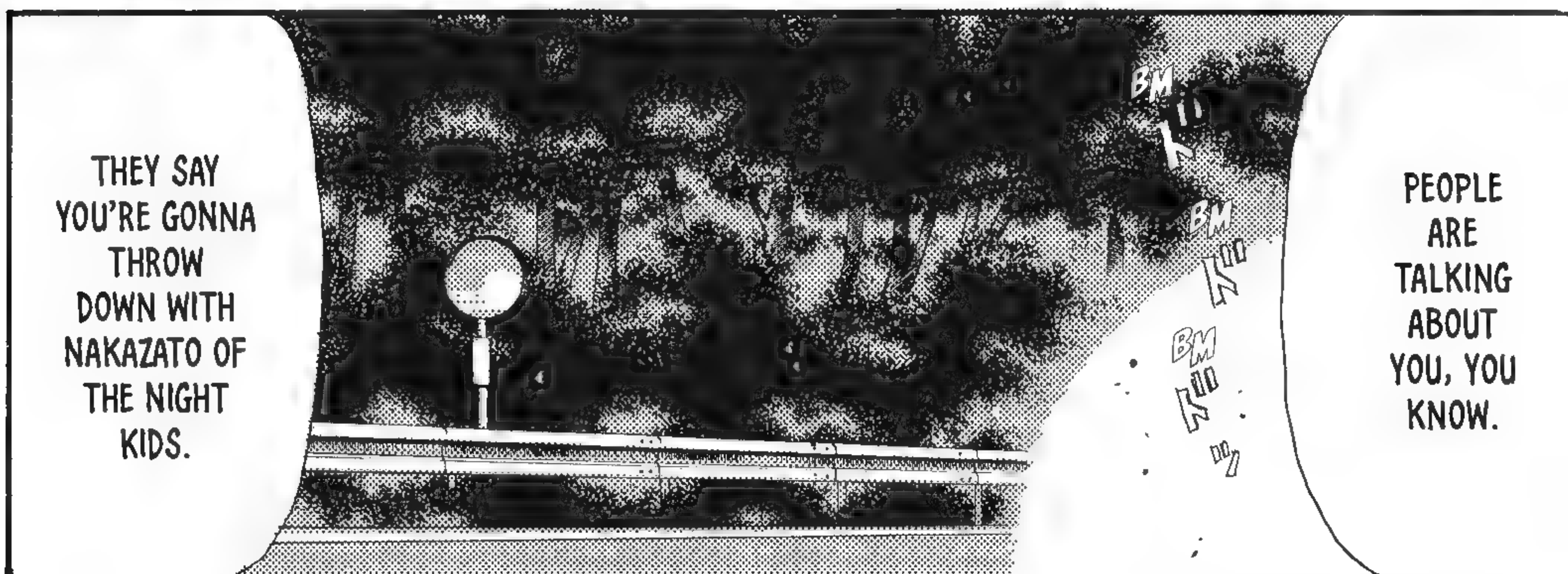




THIS IS THE  
SAME TIME  
OF NIGHT  
THAT I RAN  
INTO YOU  
THE FIRST  
TIME.



I  
THOUGHT  
I MIGHT  
FIND YOU  
HERE.



THEY SAY  
YOU'RE GONNA  
THROW  
DOWN WITH  
NAKAZATO OF  
THE NIGHT  
KIDS.

PEOPLE  
ARE  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
YOU, YOU  
KNOW.



...BUT  
ME? I  
COULDN'T  
CARE  
LESS!

SOMEBODY  
ACCEPTED  
THE  
CHALLENGE  
WHILE I WAS  
AWAY...



I NEVER  
AGREED TO  
RACE ANY  
GT-R.

HEY,  
LISTEN.



## ► Ch. 19: I'm Not Afraid of Any GT-R!

### ***Itsuki Takeuchi (18 y/o)***

*163 cm, 55 kg*

*He likes bananas from Taiwan (?) and any car favored by street racers.*

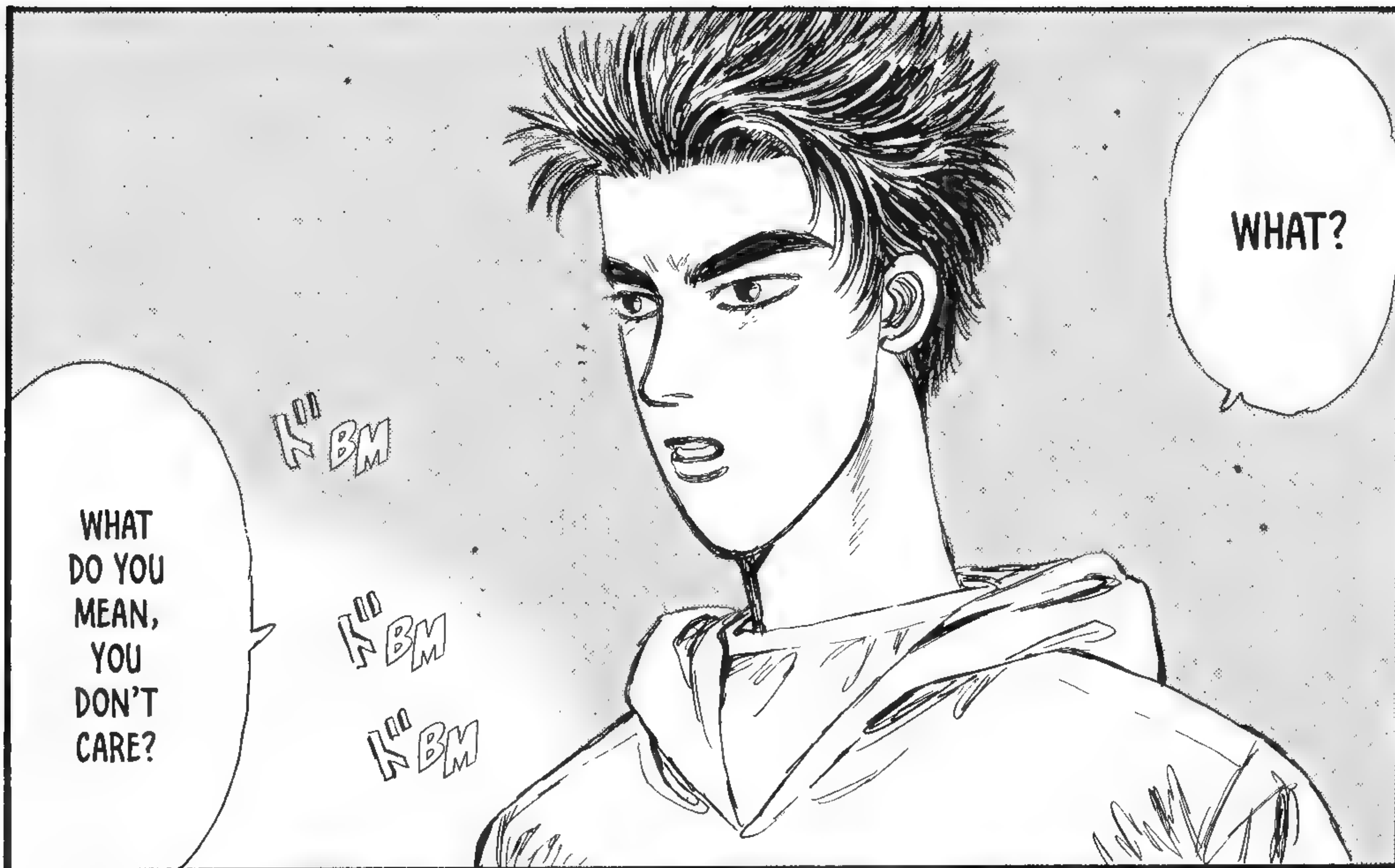
*He hates diesels, automatics, and FFs.*

*He's over the moon about his buddy Takumi's driving skills and dreams of the day they'll be called the Twin Eight-Sixes of Akina.*

*Special Skill: Hillside starting (boh-ring!)*







WHAT?

WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN,  
YOU  
DON'T  
CARE?

K<sup>uu</sup> BM

K<sup>uu</sup> BM

K<sup>uu</sup> BM



WHY  
WOULDN'T  
YOU SAY  
YES?

NAKAZATO OF  
THE NIGHT KIDS  
ASKED FOR YOU  
BY NAME!



WHAT'S IT  
GOT TO DO  
WITH YOU?

WHY  
DO YOU  
CARE?

...

NOT EVERY-  
ONE COULD,  
BUT YOU  
WILL!

YOU'LL  
TEAR  
THAT  
GT-R  
APART!

K<sup>uu</sup> BM

K<sup>uu</sup> BM

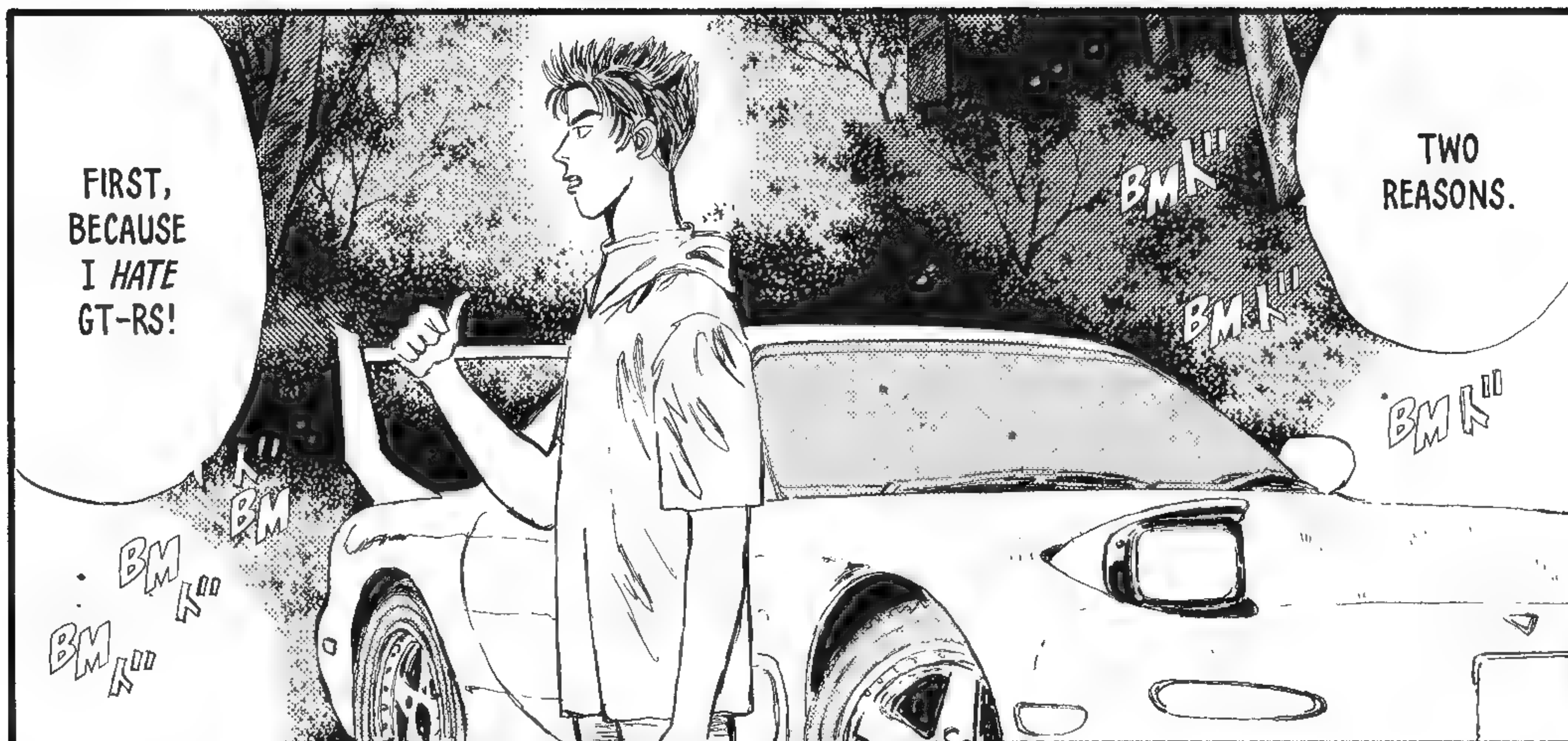
K<sup>uu</sup> BM

BM K<sup>uu</sup>

BM K<sup>uu</sup>

BM K<sup>uu</sup>



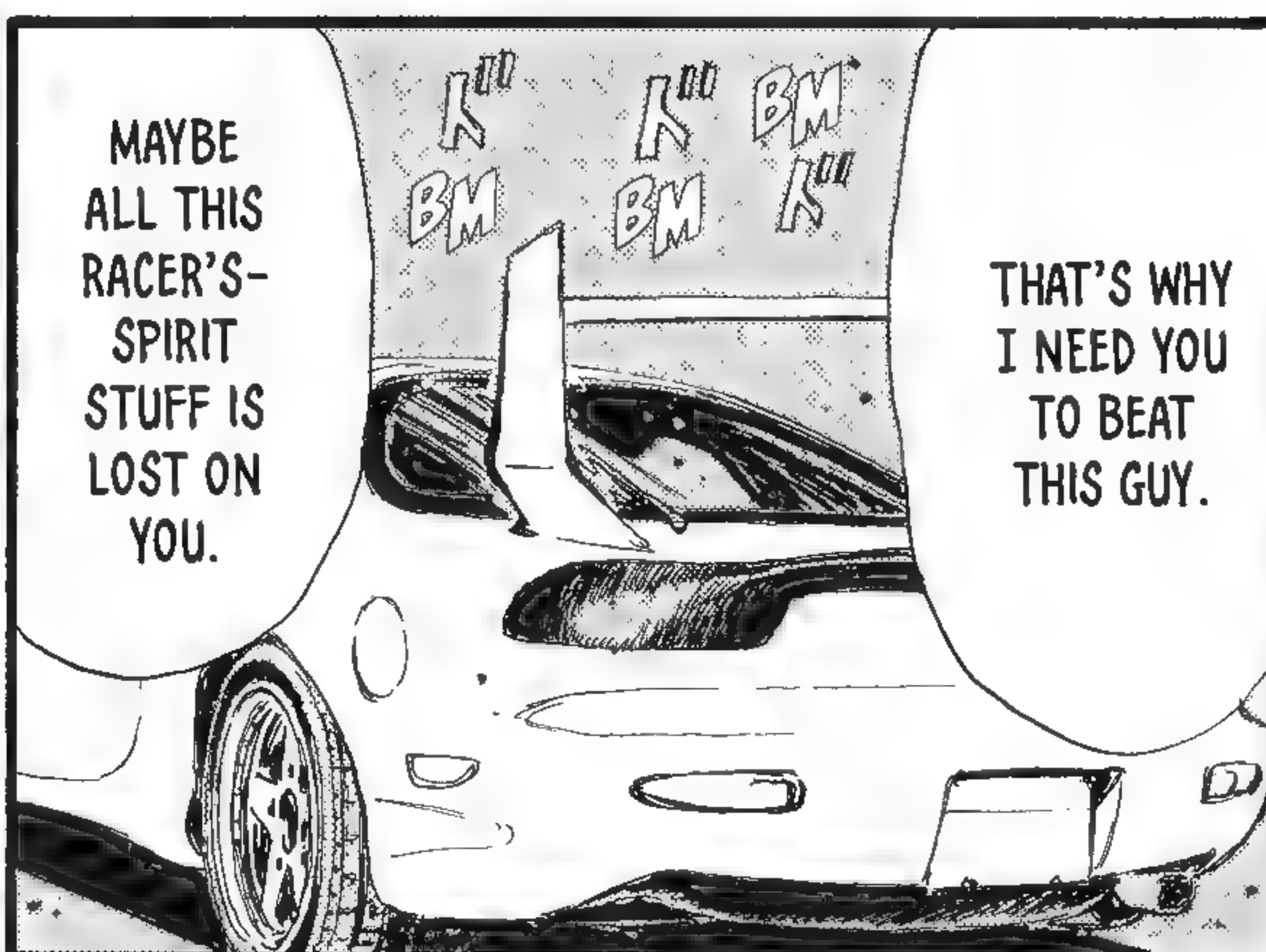


FIRST,  
BECAUSE  
I HATE  
GT-RS!

TWO  
REASONS.



BUT WHO  
WANTS TO  
SEE SOMEONE  
ELSE BEAT  
THE GUY THEY  
COULDN'T  
BEAT?



MAYBE  
ALL THIS  
RACER'S-  
SPIRIT  
STUFF IS  
LOST ON  
YOU.

THAT'S WHY  
I NEED YOU  
TO BEAT  
THIS GUY.



DEFINITELY  
NOT SOME  
FILTHY  
GT-R!

THE ONLY  
ONES YOU'RE  
ALLOWED TO  
LOSE TO ARE  
THE TAKAHASHI  
BROTHERS  
OF THE RED  
SUNS!





STREET  
RACERS DON'T  
NEED A REASON  
TO BATTLE EACH  
OTHER!

NO  
REASON?

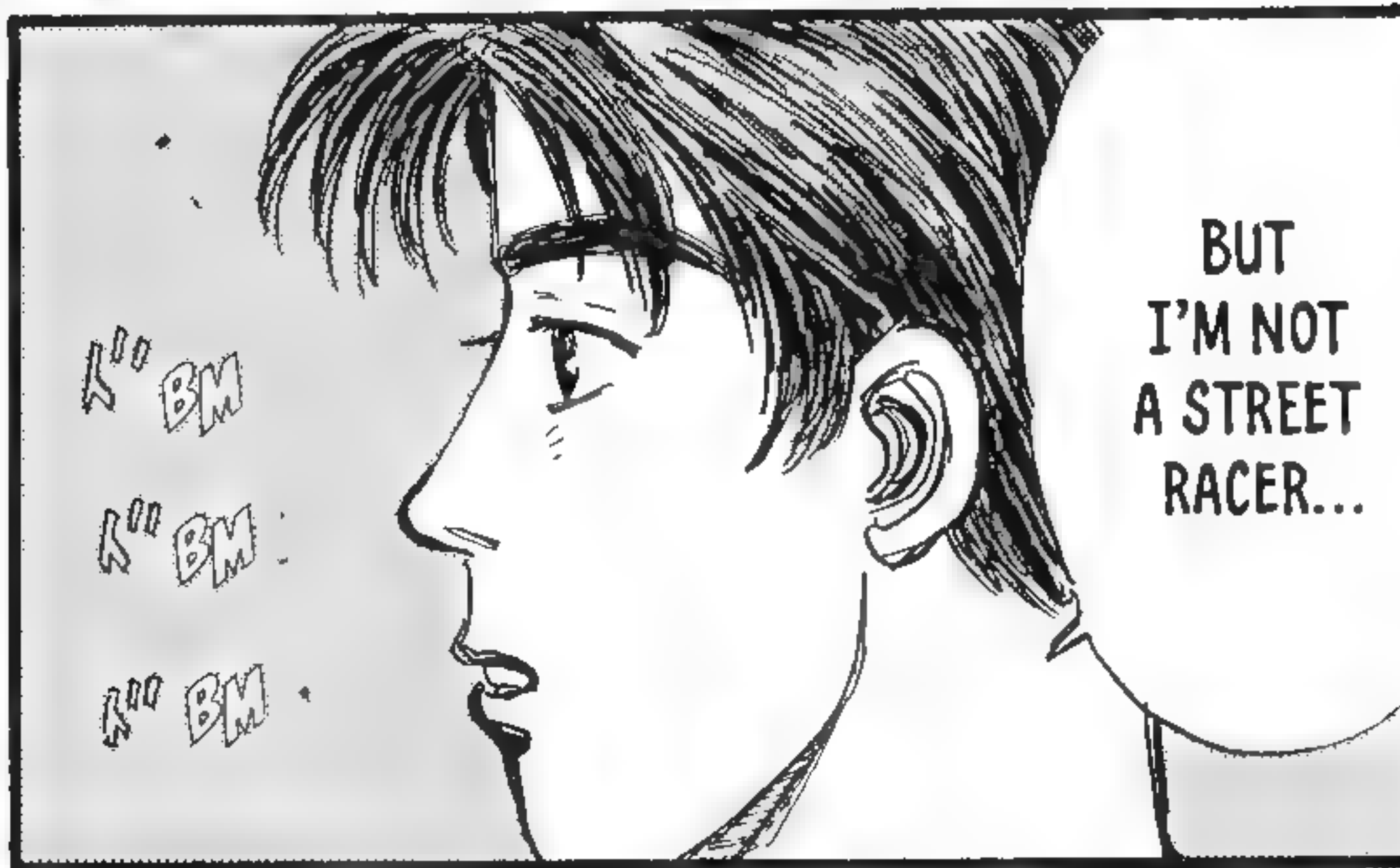


I  
HAVE NO  
REASON  
TO!

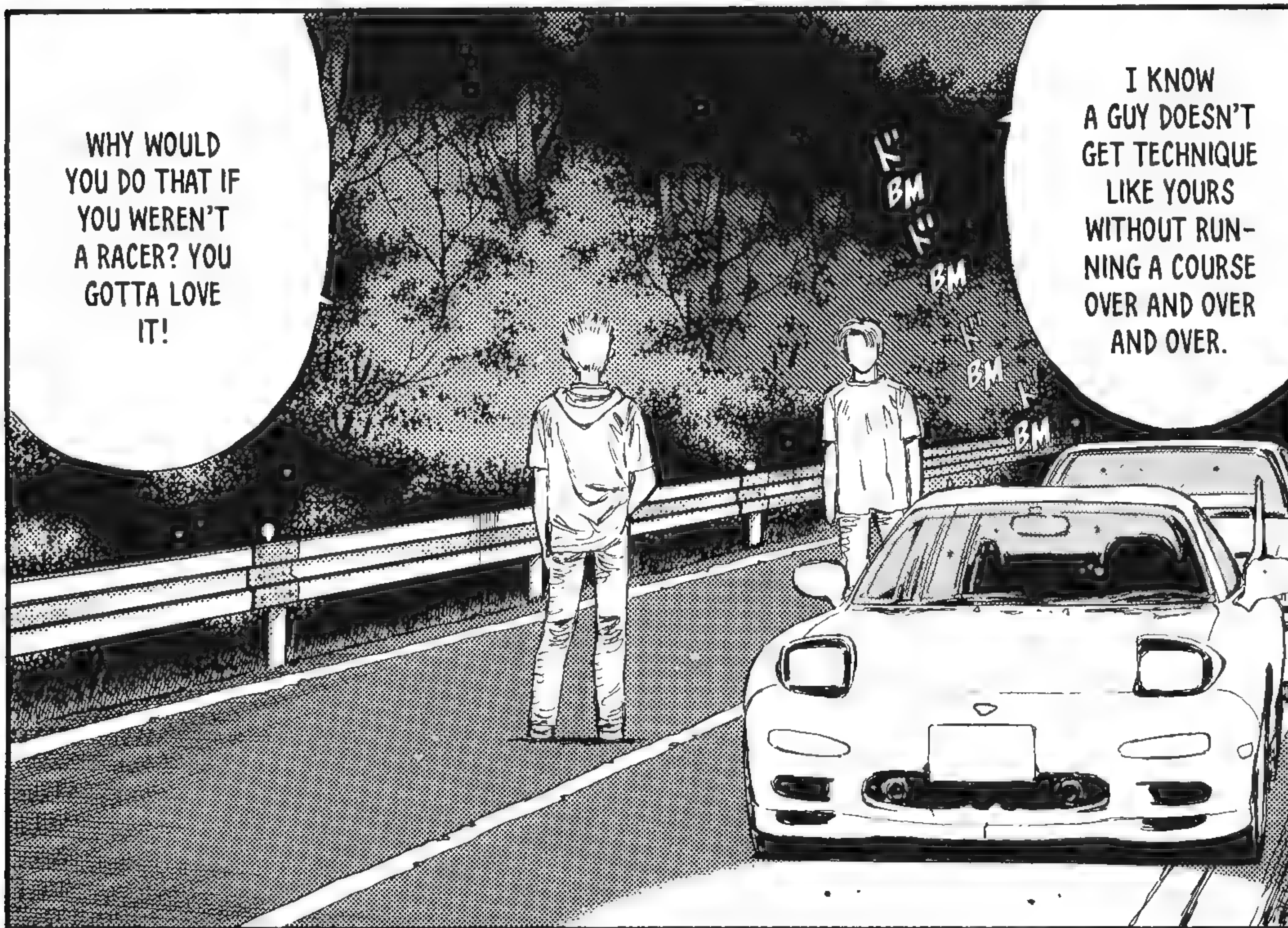
IT  
DOESN'T  
MATTER.  
I SAID I'M  
NOT DOING  
IT.



BULLSHIT!  
YOU TRYIN'  
TO WIND ME  
UP?



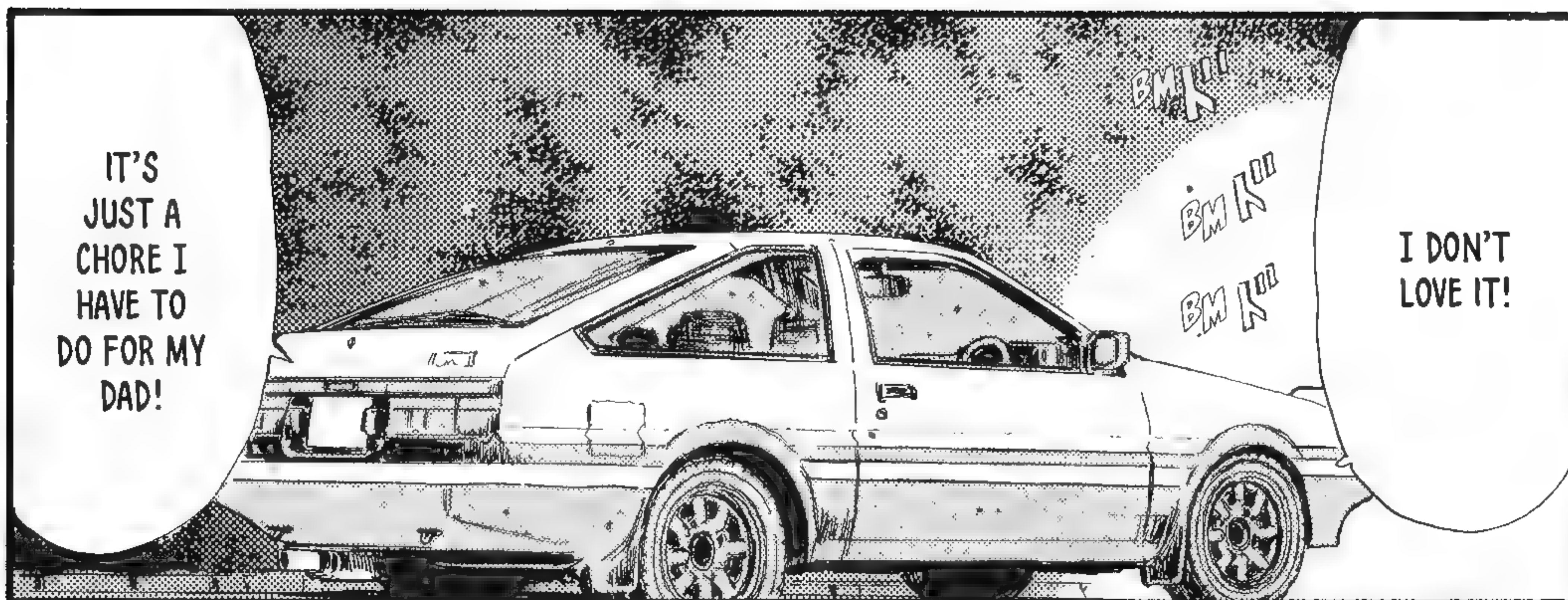
BUT  
I'M NOT  
A STREET  
RACER...



WHY WOULD  
YOU DO THAT IF  
YOU WEREN'T  
A RACER? YOU  
GOTTA LOVE  
IT!

I KNOW  
A GUY DOESN'T  
GET TECHNIQUE  
LIKE YOURS  
WITHOUT RUN-  
NING A COURSE  
OVER AND OVER  
AND OVER.





IT'S  
JUST A  
CHORE I  
HAVE TO  
DO FOR MY  
DAD!

I DON'T  
LOVE IT!



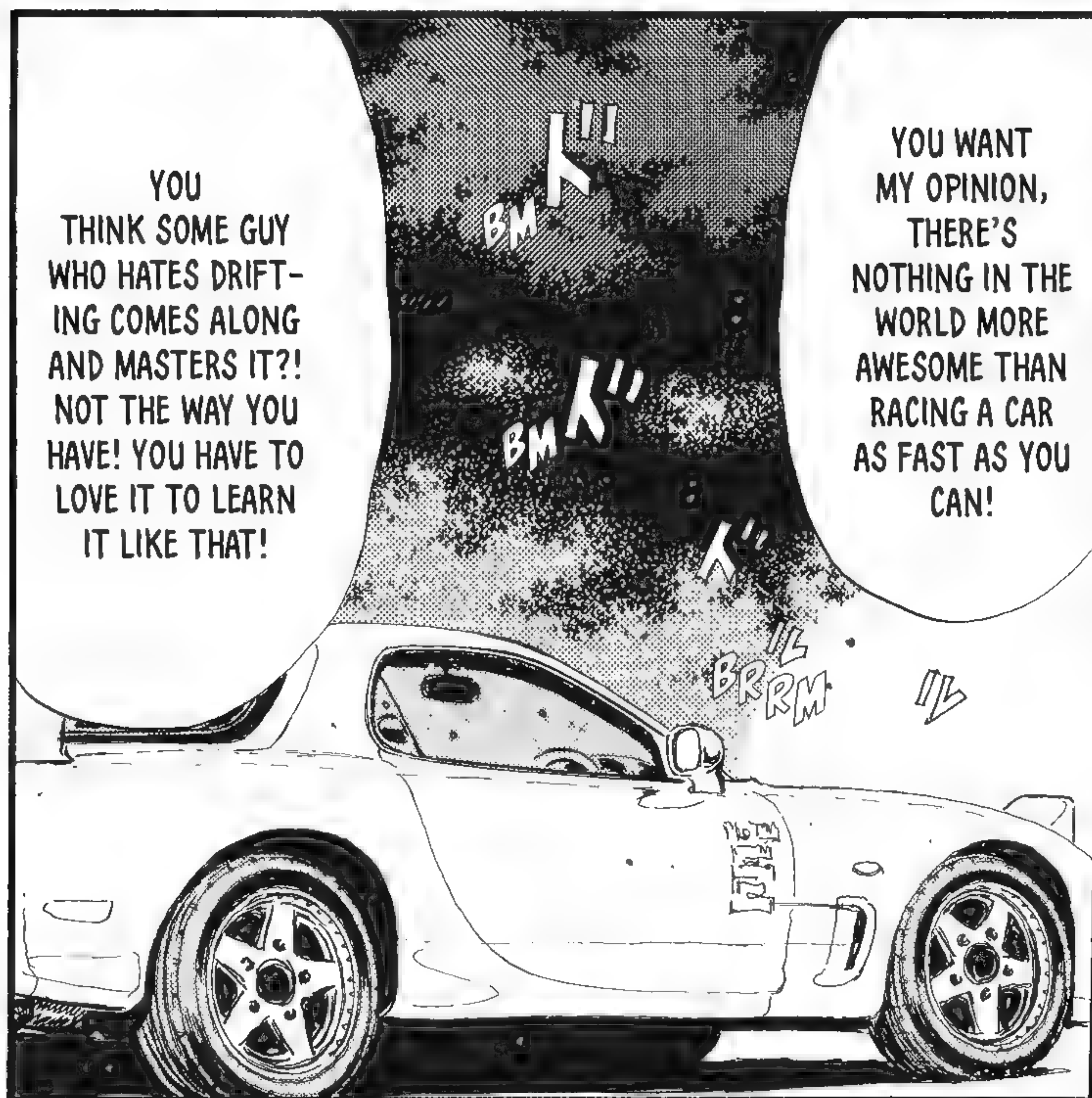
YOU  
DON'T  
GET  
IT.

THAT'S  
NOT  
WHAT  
I...



YOU  
DON'T  
BUILD  
SKILLS  
LIKE THAT  
BY DRIVING  
LIKE IT'S  
A CHORE.

DON'T  
LIE TO  
ME.



YOU  
THINK SOME GUY  
WHO HATES DRIFT-  
ING COMES ALONG  
AND MASTERS IT?!  
NOT THE WAY YOU  
HAVE! YOU HAVE TO  
LOVE IT TO LEARN  
IT LIKE THAT!

YOU WANT  
MY OPINION,  
THERE'S  
NOTHING IN THE  
WORLD MORE  
AWESOME THAN  
RACING A CAR  
AS FAST AS YOU  
CAN!



YOU'RE  
THE ONE  
WHO  
DOESN'T  
GET IT!

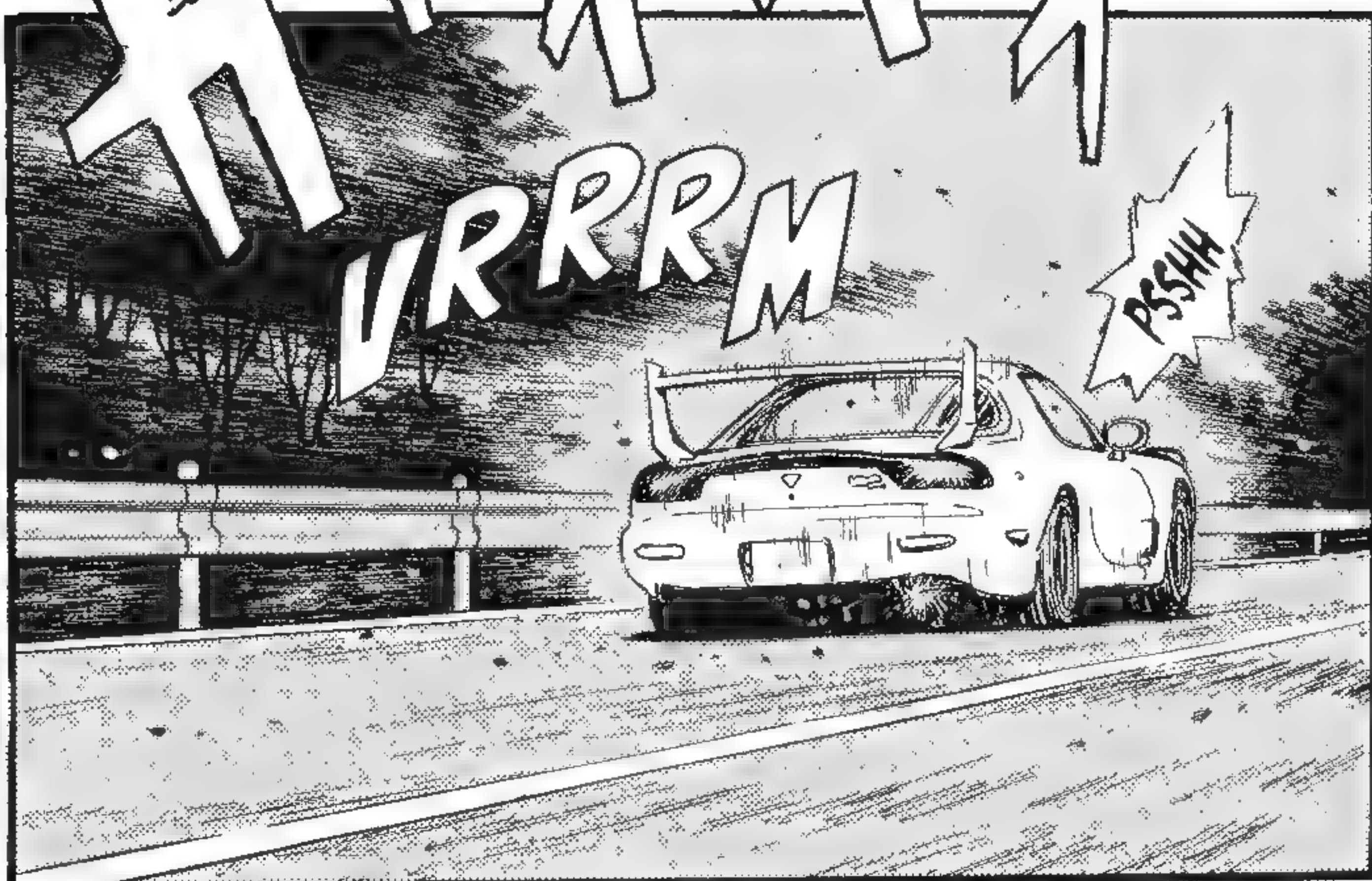












...AND  
JUST  
DON'T  
KNOW IT  
YET?!

HE  
THINKS  
I REALLY  
LOVE  
DRIVING...



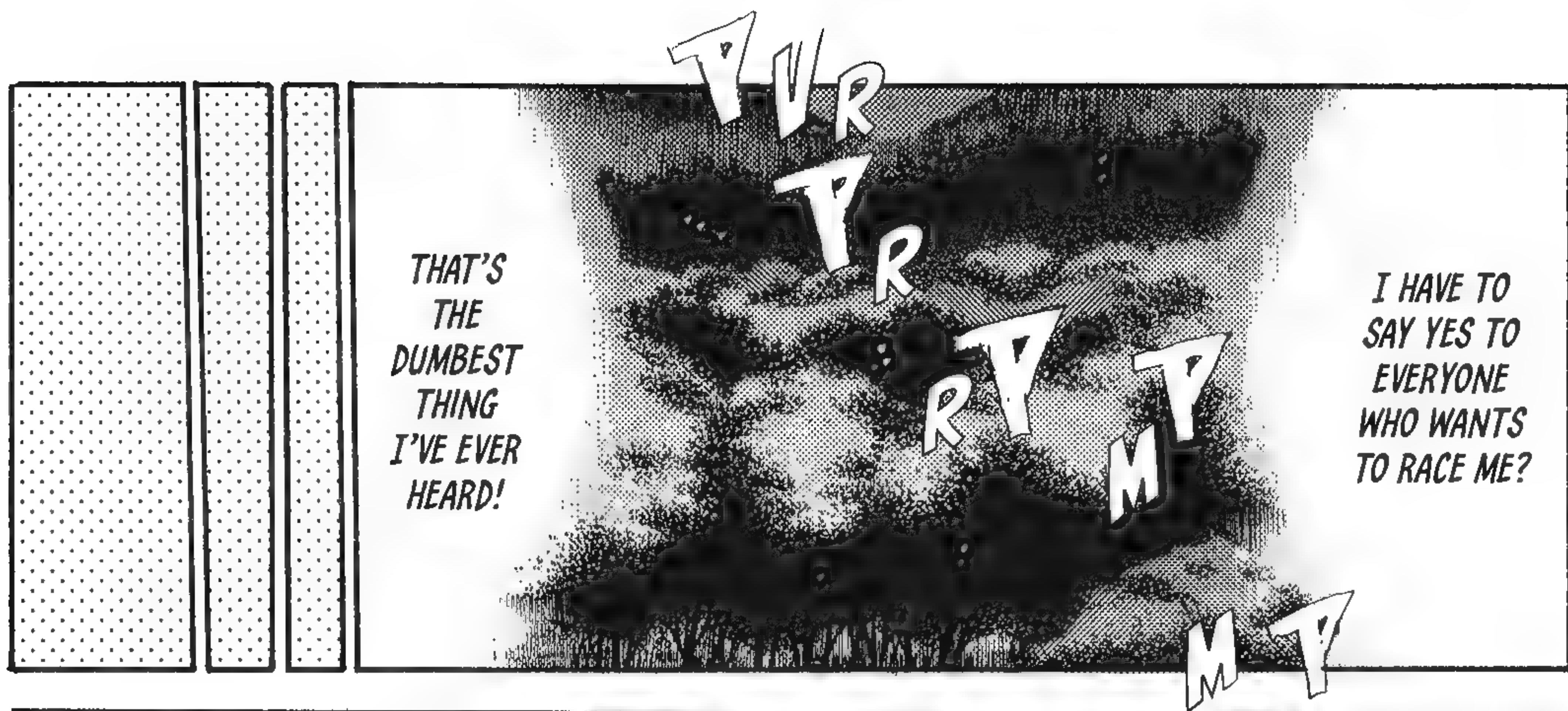
BUT  
SO  
WHAT  
?

SHIT, MAYBE  
HE'S RIGHT.

THAT  
ONE HITS  
CLOSE TO  
HOME!







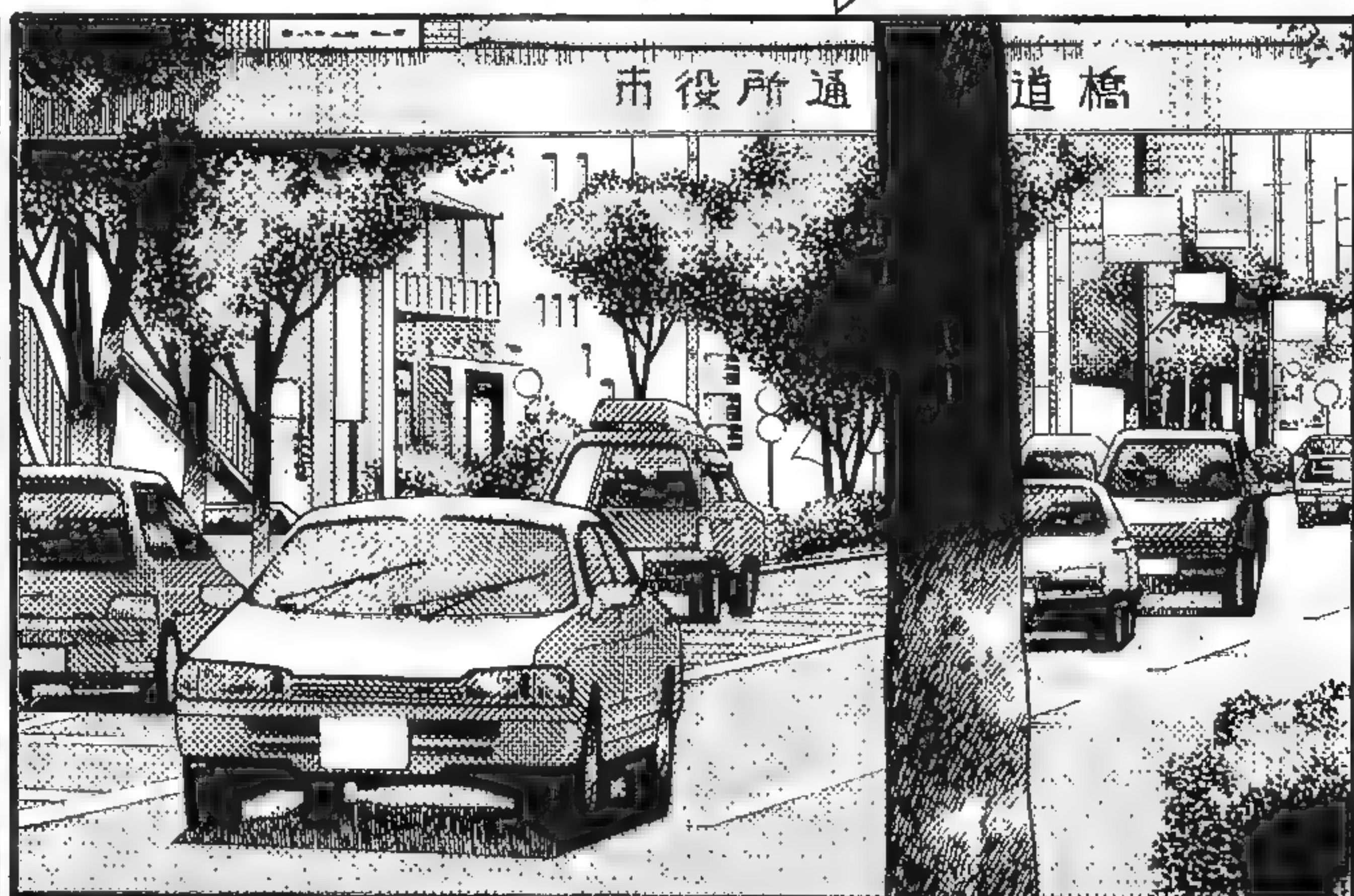
THAT'S  
THE  
DUMBEST  
THING  
I'VE EVER  
HEARD!

I HAVE TO  
SAY YES TO  
EVERYONE  
WHO WANTS  
TO RACE ME?



HE'S ON  
THE LATE  
SHIFT  
TODAY.

WHERE'S  
TAKUMI?



ITSUKI...

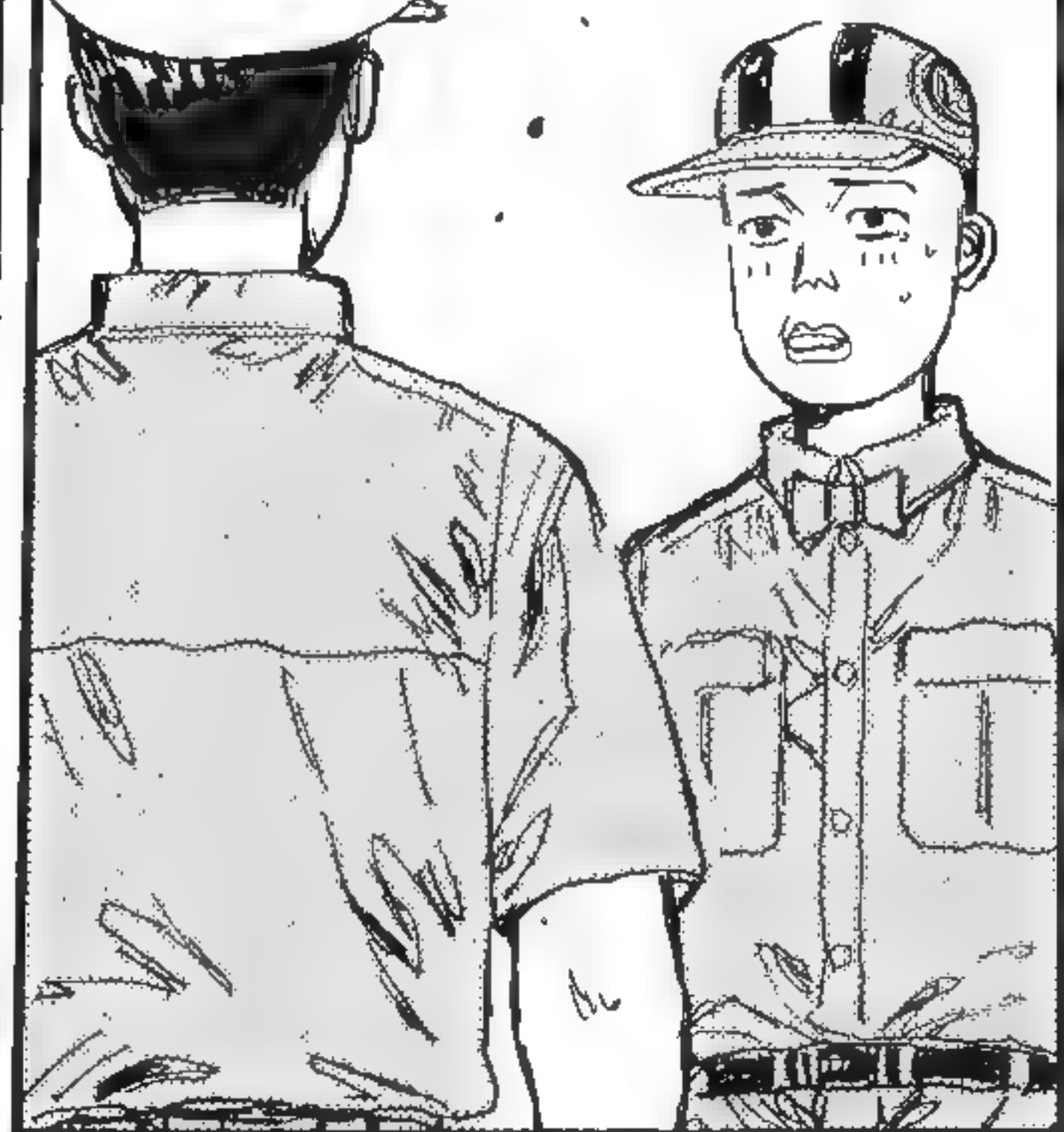
I'M GOING  
TO GO TO  
MOUNT AKINA  
TONIGHT AND  
APOLOGIZE TO  
THE DRIVER  
OF THE NIGHT  
KIDS' GT-R.

IKETANI-  
SENPAI...



I JUST HAVE  
TO TELL HIM  
THAT THE  
SPEED STARS  
HAD NOTHING  
TO DO WITH  
THIS. IT WAS  
ALL ME.

I DON'T  
CARE IF  
I HAVE TO  
SCRAPE OR  
BOW OR  
GRIND MY  
FACE INTO  
THE DUST.





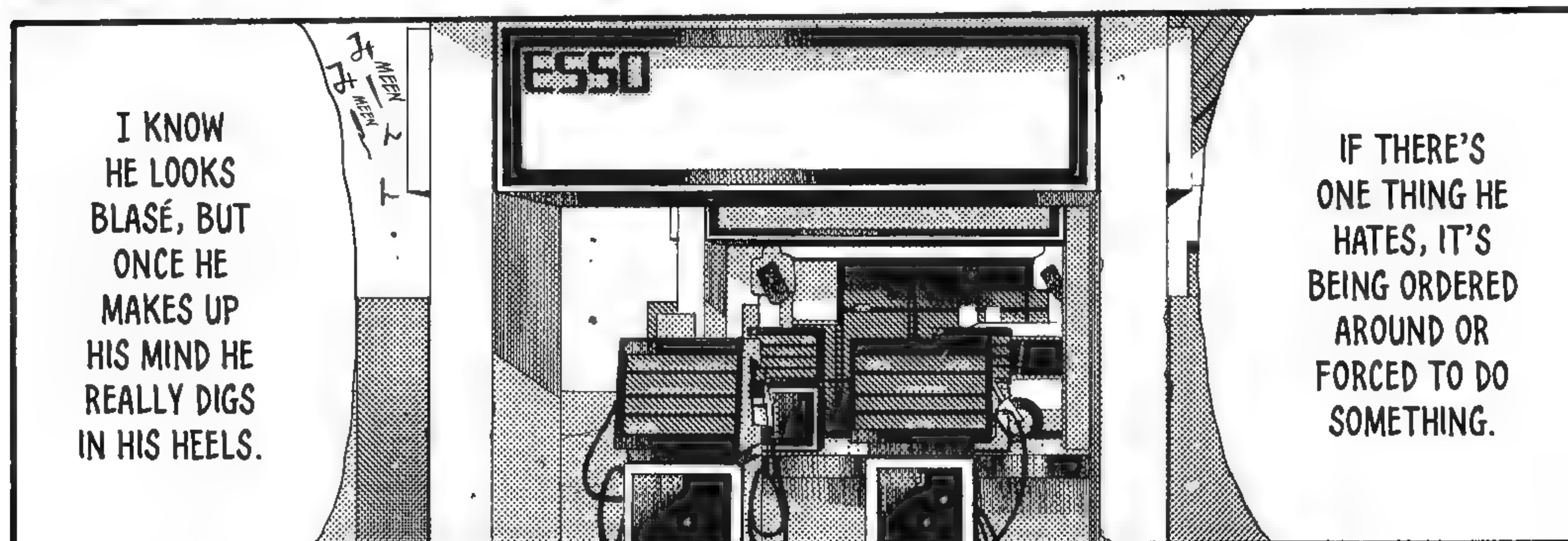


TAKUMI AND  
I HAVE BEEN  
FRIENDS SINCE  
WE WERE KIDS.  
I KNOW HOW  
HE TICKS.



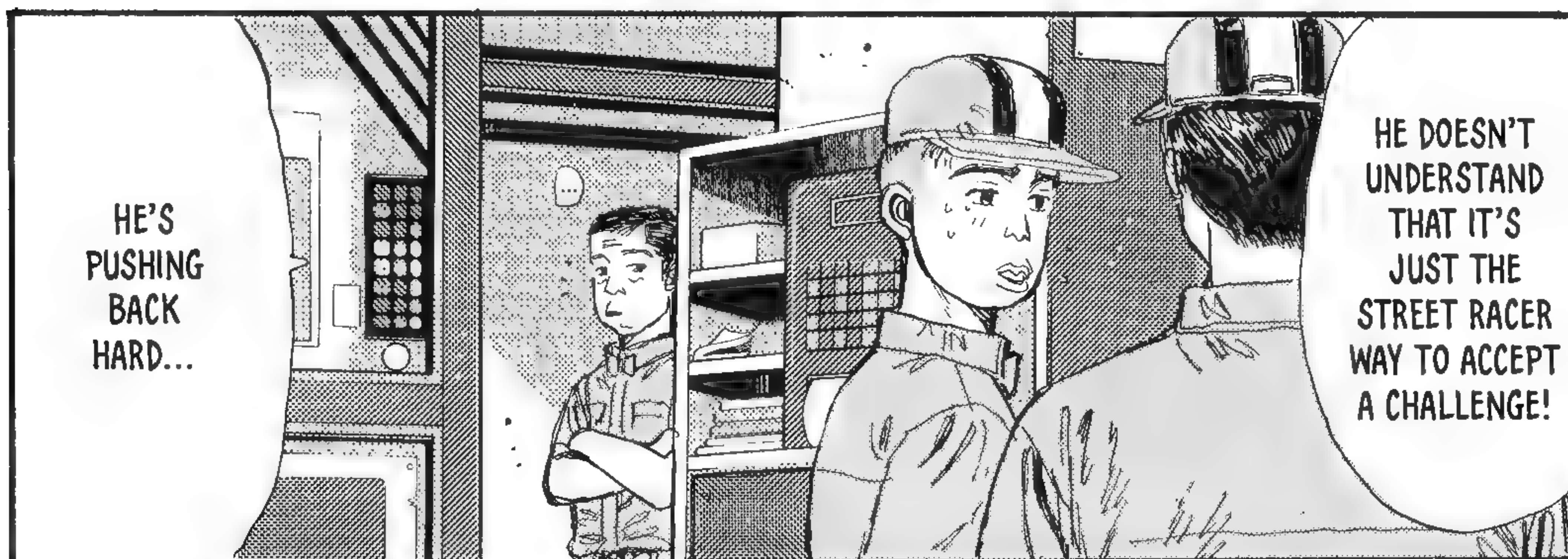
I REALLY  
DOUBT IT,  
SENPAI.

ARE  
WE SURE  
THERE'S  
NO WAY TO  
CONVINCE  
TAKUMI TO  
RACE?



I KNOW  
HE LOOKS  
BLASÉ, BUT  
ONCE HE  
MAKES UP  
HIS MIND HE  
REALLY DIGS  
IN HIS HEELS.

IF THERE'S  
ONE THING HE  
HATES, IT'S  
BEING ORDERED  
AROUND OR  
FORCED TO DO  
SOMETHING.



HE'S  
PUSHING  
BACK  
HARD...

HE DOESN'T  
UNDERSTAND  
THAT IT'S  
JUST THE  
STREET RACER  
WAY TO ACCEPT  
A CHALLENGE!



HIS DAD IS  
"WIRED" THE  
EXACT SAME  
WAY.

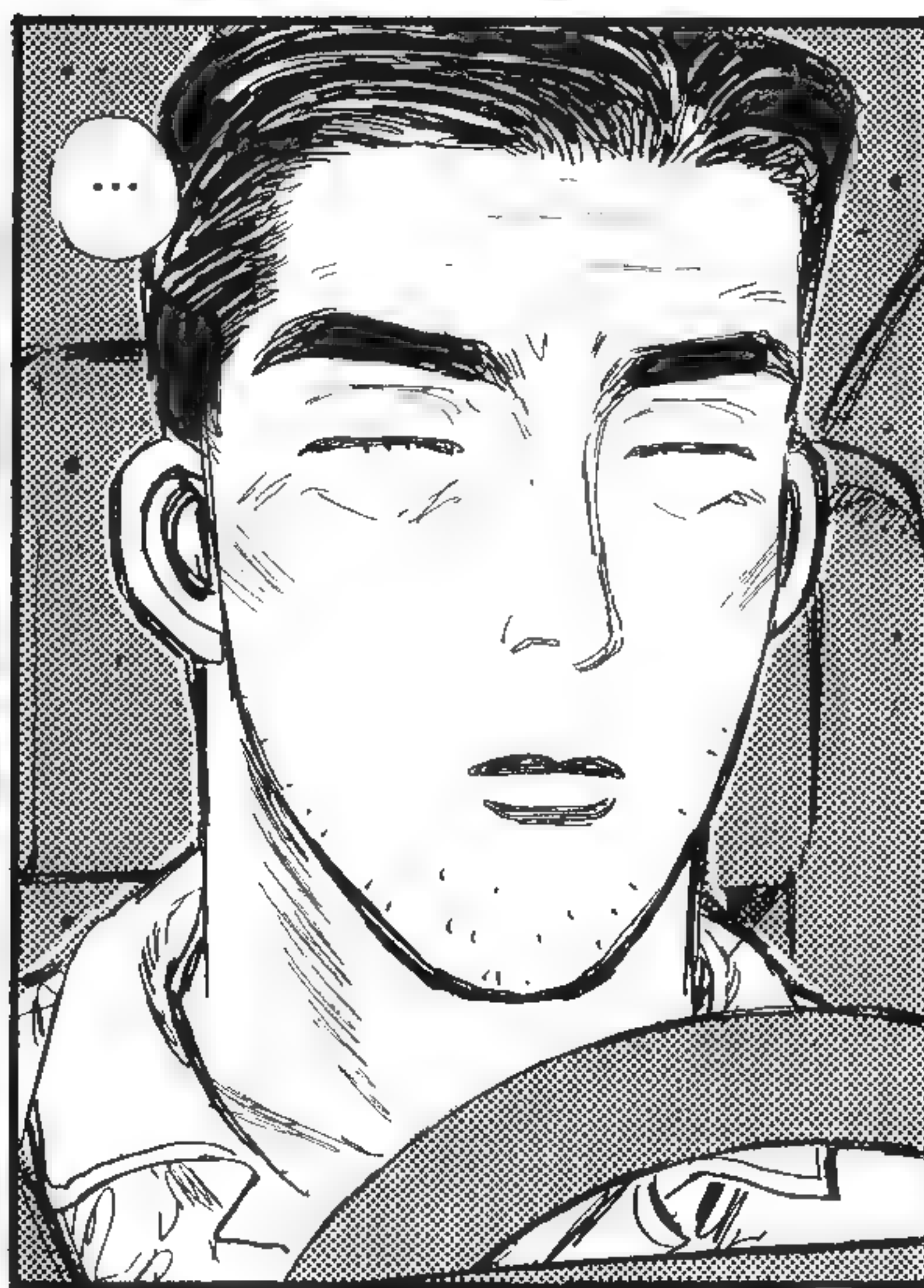
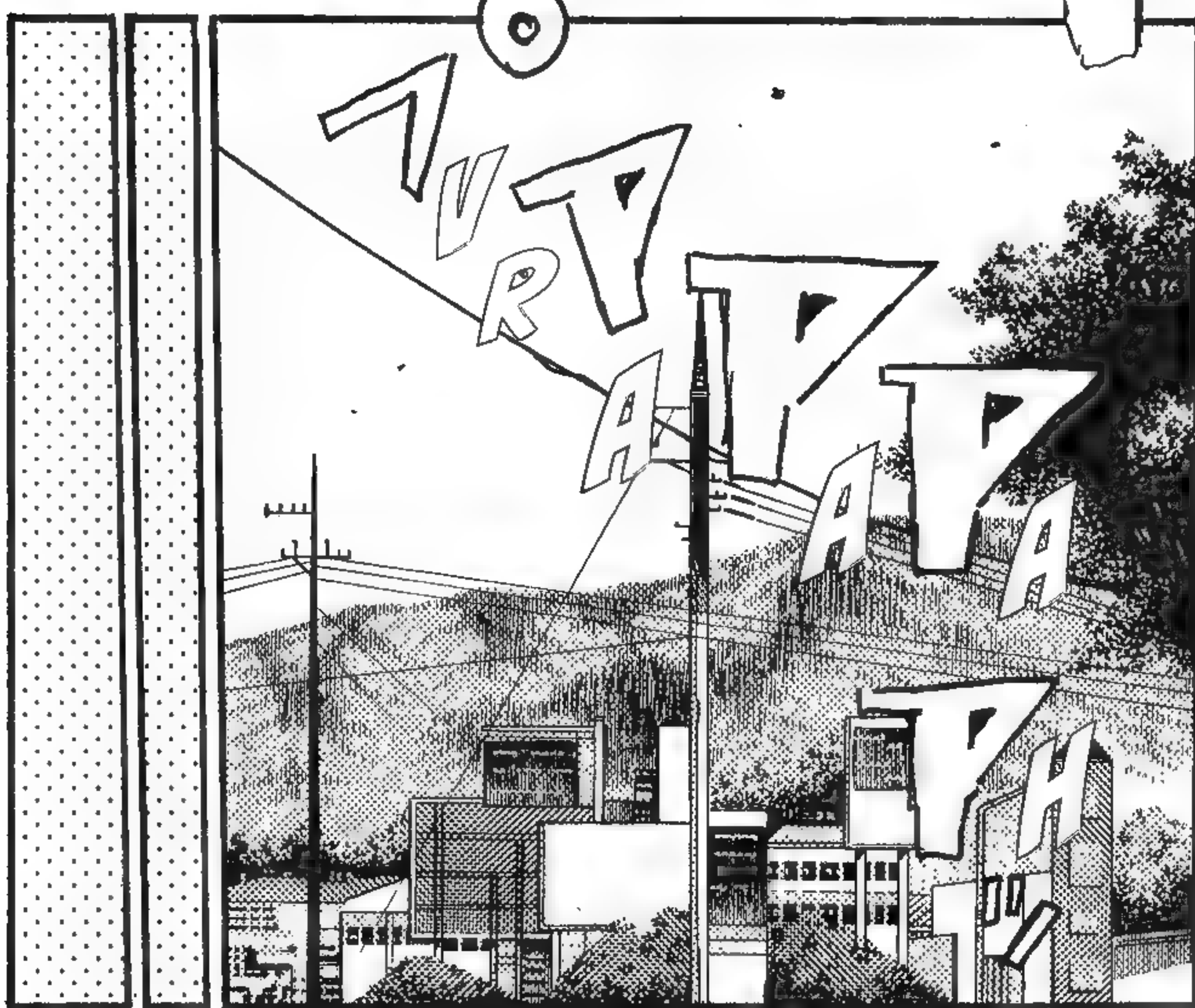
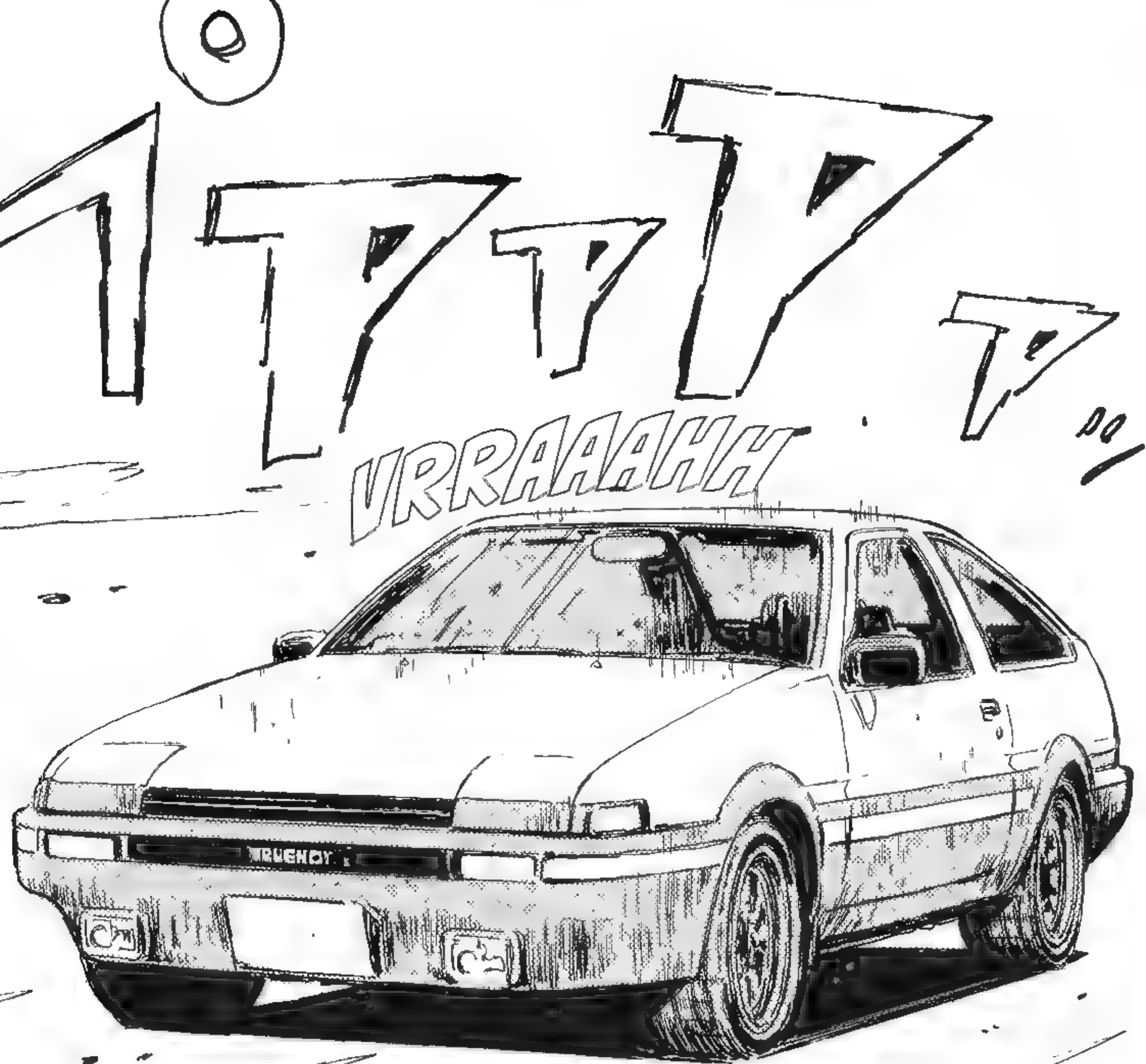
FUNNY.

MAYBE  
I CAN  
GIVE HIM  
A LITTLE  
PUSH.

GOSH...

...BUT  
THAT'S  
JUST THE  
WAY HE'S  
WIRED.

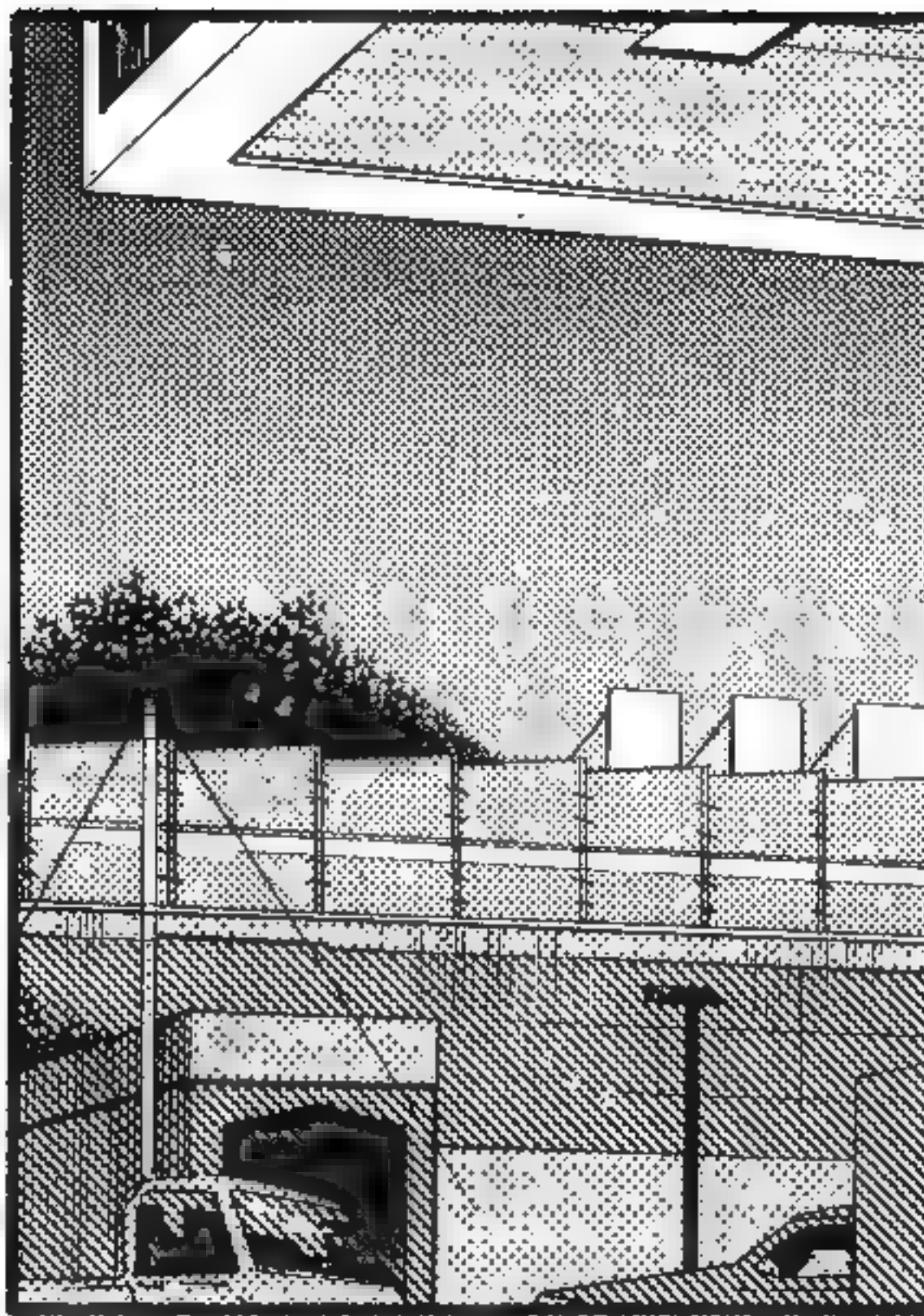






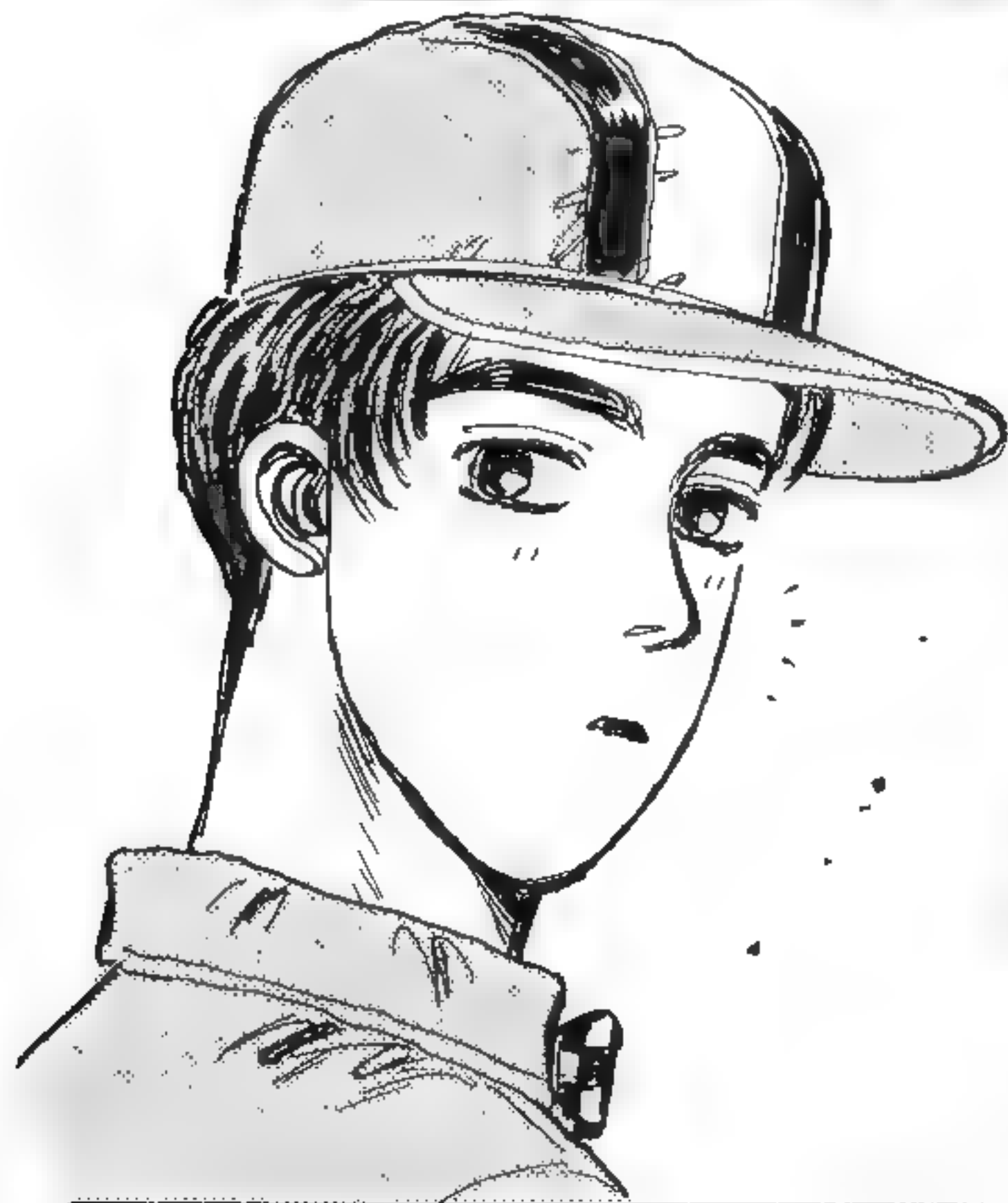


YOU DID?  
GOOD,  
GOOD.



I  
FINISHED  
CLEANING  
UP  
OUTSIDE.

HEY,  
BOSS?



ACTUALLY,  
IF YOU'D  
HAVE A  
SEAT FOR  
A SECOND,  
TAKUMI?



I'LL  
BE ON  
MY WAY  
THEN,  
SIR.

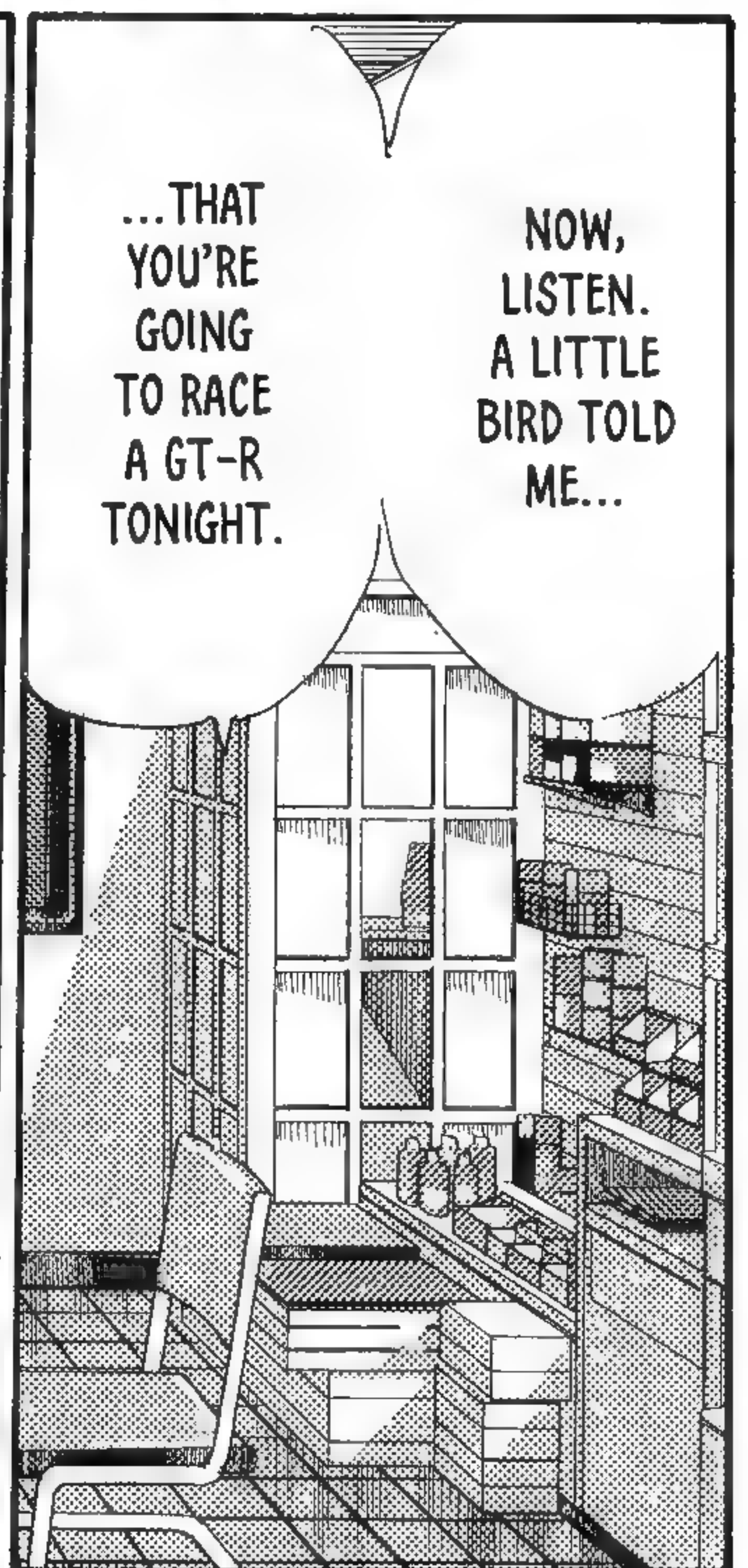


THIS  
GUY IS  
TOO  
MUCH  
FOR  
YOU!

WELL, TAKE  
IT FROM  
ME—YOU'D  
BETTER  
THINK  
TWICE!



UH...  
IT DID?



...THAT  
YOU'RE  
GOING  
TO RACE  
A GT-R  
TONIGHT.

NOW,  
LISTEN.  
A LITTLE  
BIRD TOLD  
ME...





I CAN SEE  
IT ALL.

NOT ANOTHER  
WORD! BELIEVE  
ME, I KNOW.

I'M  
NOT—

OH!  
NO...



AND I'LL BET I CAN  
GUESS HOW YOU GOT  
INTO IT. ITSUKI GOT  
CARRIED AWAY AND  
SAID YES, AND NOW  
YOUR HANDS ARE  
TIED, RIGHT?

I KNOW  
YOU DIDN'T  
WANT THIS  
BATTLE.



HE CAN SEE  
IT ALL? HE  
CAN'T SEE  
SQUAT!

EH.  
WHO  
CARES?

UH...  
SURE...

BUT  
YOU'RE NOT  
MUCH BETTER,  
TAKUMI! A SOFT  
TOUCH! YOU'VE  
GOT TO STOP  
SAVING YOUR  
FRIENDS FROM  
THEMSELVES.

ちゅ  
PISH  
PISH!

THAT  
ITSUKI!  
WHAT AM  
I GOING TO  
DO WITH  
HIM?



SPACED

I KNOW  
YOU'RE NO  
GEARHEAD, SO  
YOU PROBABLY  
DON'T KNOW  
JUST WHAT  
KIND OF CAR  
A GT-R IS, DO  
YOU?

YOU NEED  
TO FORGET  
ABOUT  
THIS RACE.  
I WON'T  
THINK ANY  
LESS OF YOU.





...REALLY  
ALL THAT,  
BOSS?

WELL,  
MAYBE YOU  
CAN TELL  
ME. IS THE  
GT-R...



ITS  
DRIVETRAIN  
COMBINES THE  
BEST OF FR AND  
4WD SETUPS.  
IT OUGHTA BE  
CRIMINAL, IT'S  
SO GOOD!

IT'S  
MORE  
THAN ALL  
THAT!  
IT'S IN  
A CLASS  
OF ITS  
OWN!



IT'S  
THE  
LOOK  
IN HIS  
EYES.

GOT  
HIM. HE'S  
HOOKED.



A FEW  
MINUTES'  
WRENCHING  
AND YOU CAN  
JUST WRING  
HORSEPOWER  
OUT OF IT!

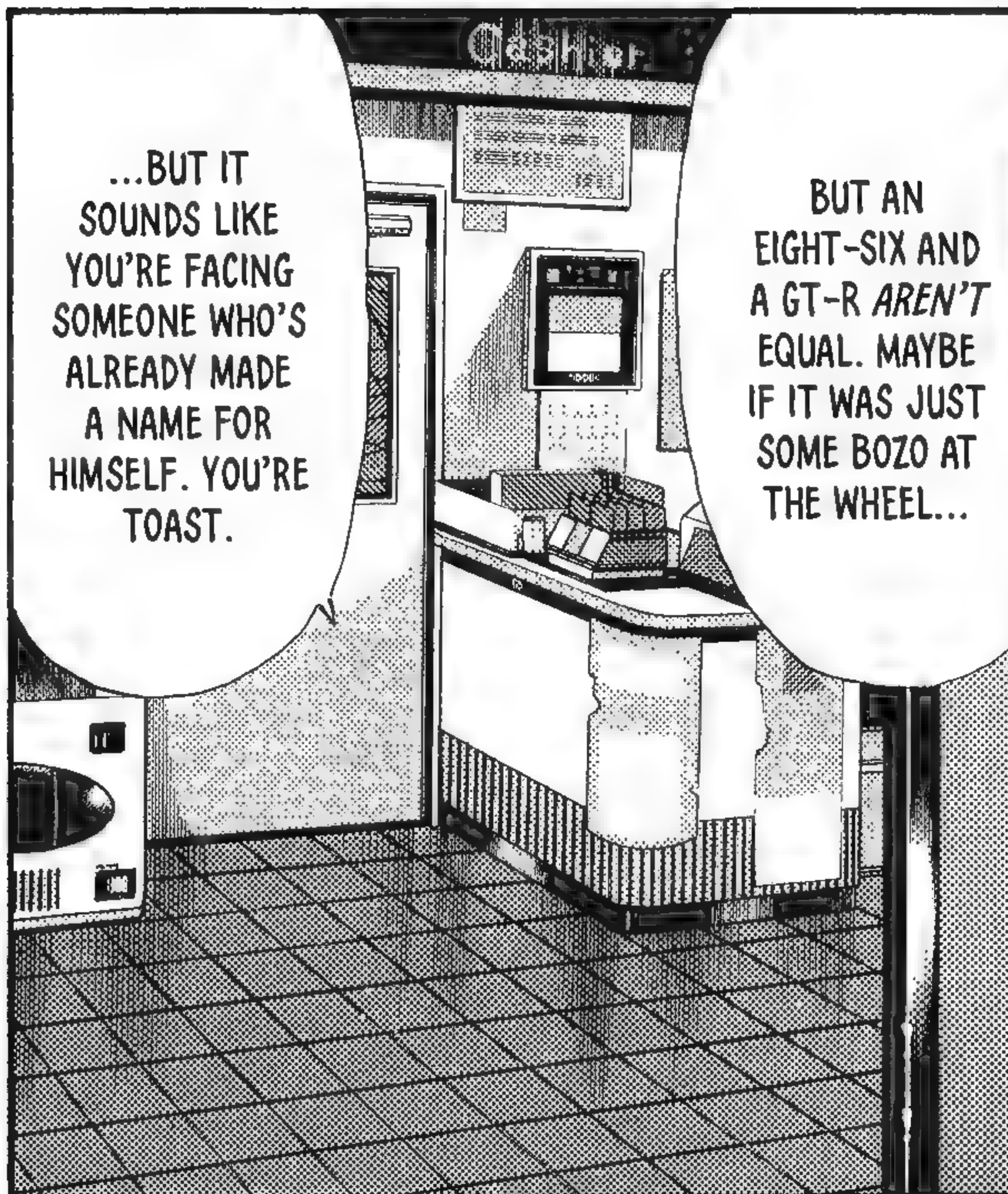
PLUS,  
POWER COMES  
EASY. IT'S  
DESIGNED TO  
MAKE UP TO  
FIVE OR SIX  
HUNDRED  
HORSES  
IN RACE  
TRIM!



ONE WITH  
A BEATING  
HEART  
CALLED THE  
RB26 TWIN  
TURBO!

ITS  
ROCK-SOLID  
STABILITY  
MAKES IT  
A BEAST  
DOWNHILL,  
TOO!





...BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE FACING SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF. YOU'RE TOAST.

BUT AN EIGHT-SIX AND A GT-R AREN'T EQUAL. MAYBE IF IT WAS JUST SOME BOZO AT THE WHEEL...



LOOK, I THINK IN ROUGHLY EQUAL CARS, THERE'S NO ONE OUT THERE WHO CAN BEAT YOU.



HE SAID IT'D BE NECK AND NECK.

...  
"IT'S SPACED!"

THAT'S NOT WHAT DAD TOLD ME.



A SMART RACER WOULDN'T TAKE ON AN OPPONENT HE'S GOT NO CHANCE AGAINST.

YOU BEAT THE AKAGI GUYS. PEOPLE RESPECT YOU NOW. DON'T WASTE THAT.



HEY, YOU LISTENING, TAKUMI?

SO, I THINK—

FLICK  
しほ











...

AH, HOW  
MANY TIMES  
DID I REV UP  
BUNTA WITH  
THAT TRICK?

**HIS OWN  
FATHER  
WOULDN'T  
HAVE ACTED  
A WHIT  
DIFFERENTLY.**

THANKS.  
SEE YOU.

HUH?

WE DON'T  
HAVE ENOUGH  
MONEY FOR  
HIM TO JUST  
DROP WORK  
LIKE THAT!

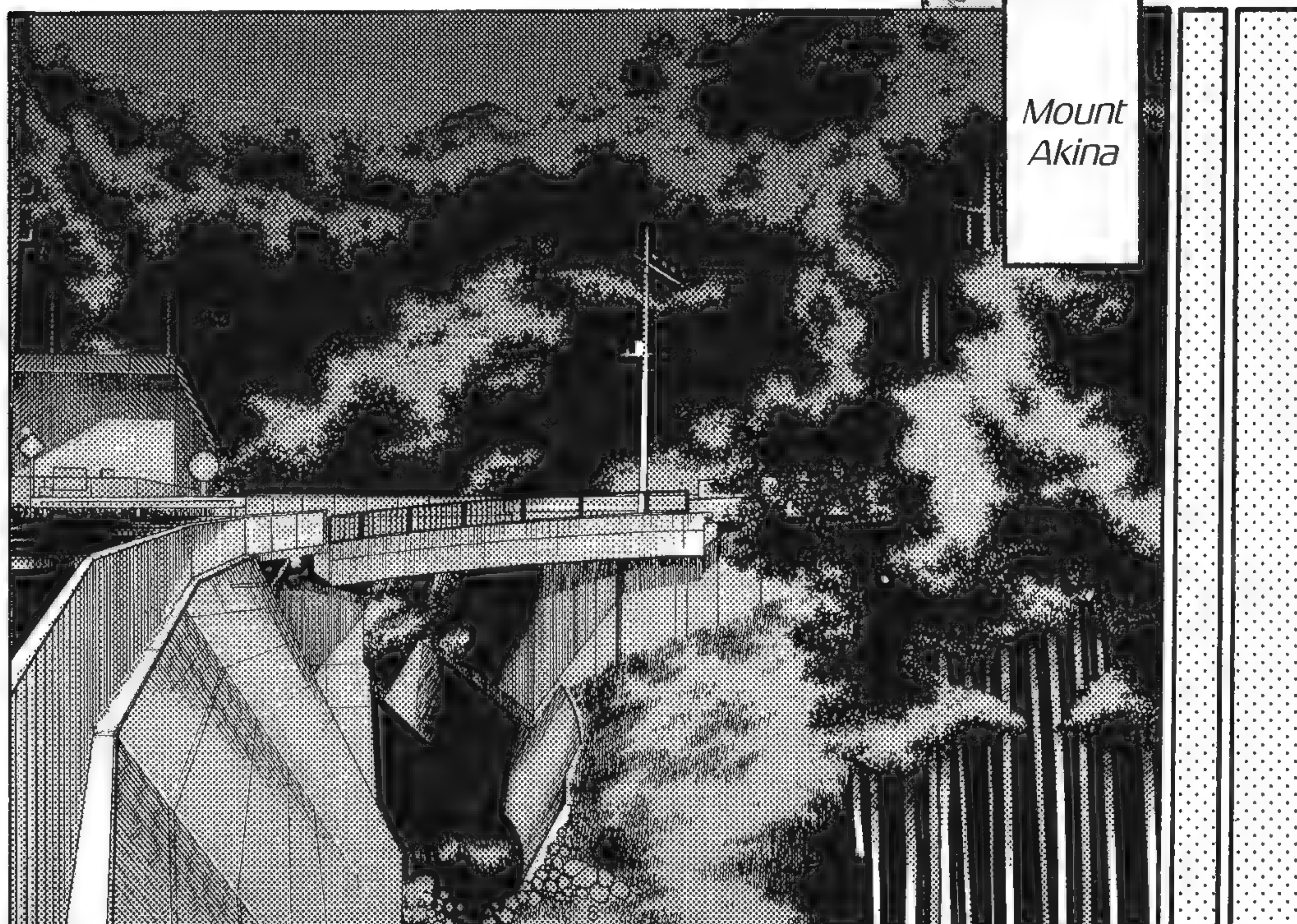
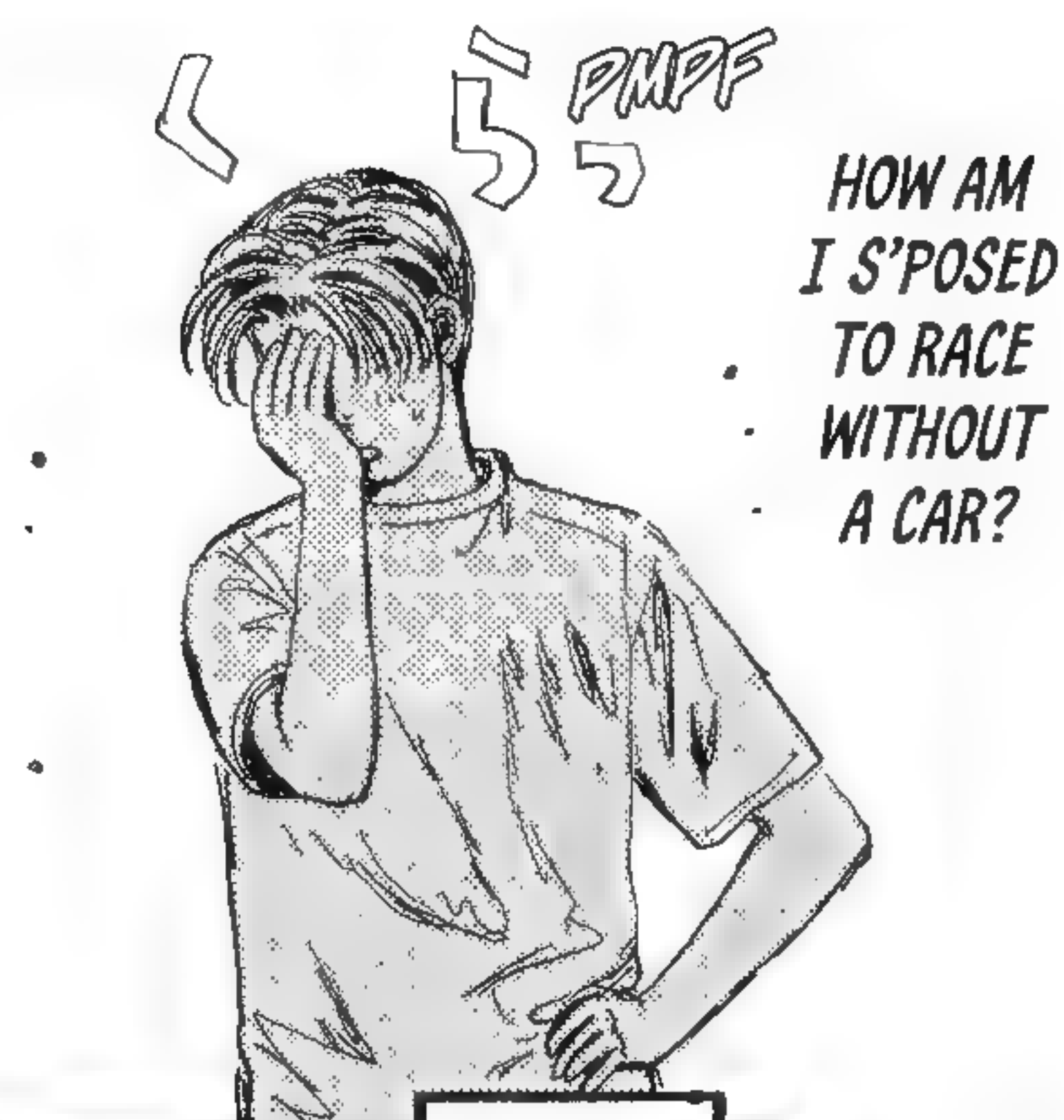
UNFORESEEN  
CIRCUMSTANCES?  
LIKE WHAT?

TEMPORARILY  
CLOSED DUE TO  
UNFORESEEN  
CIRCUM-  
STANCES.

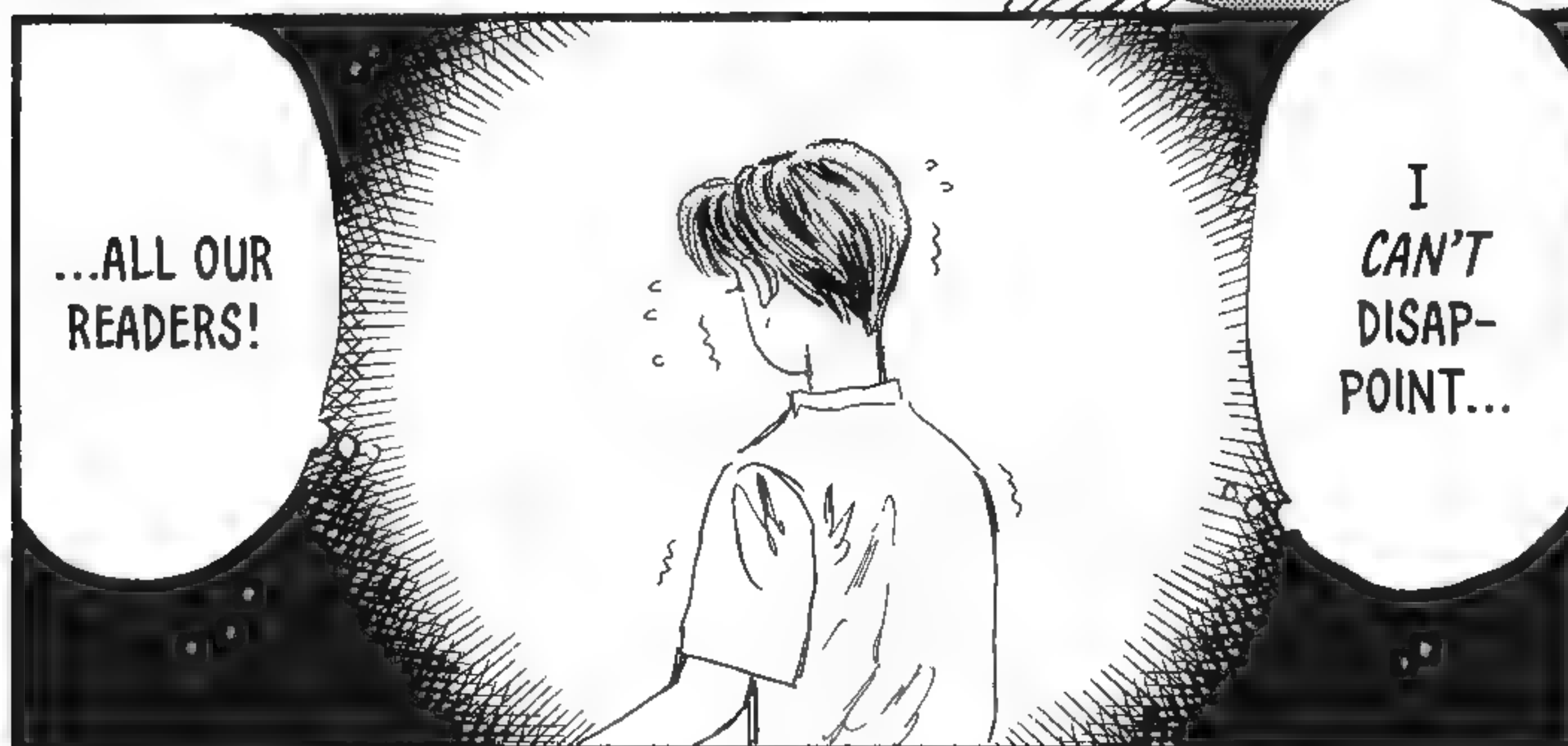
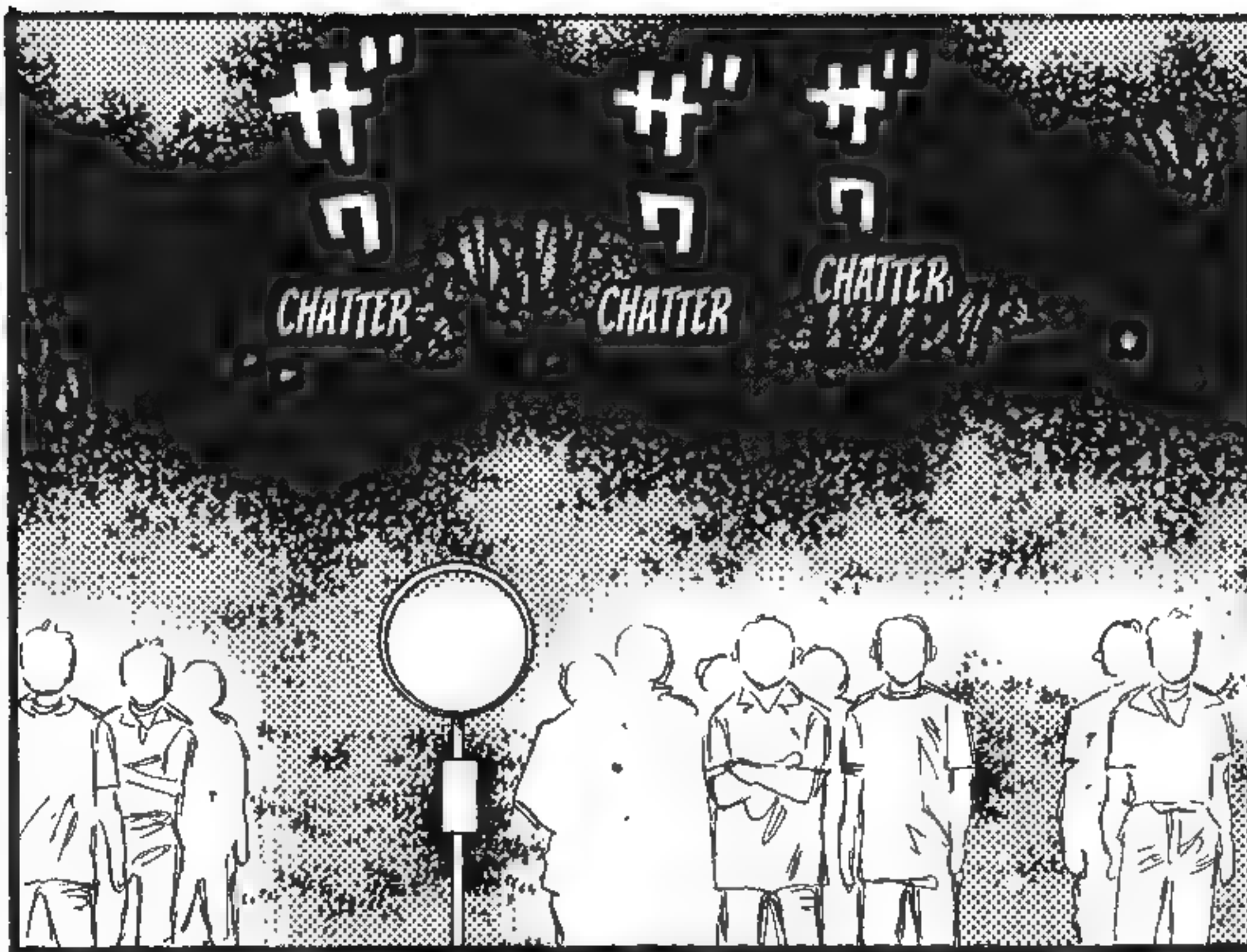
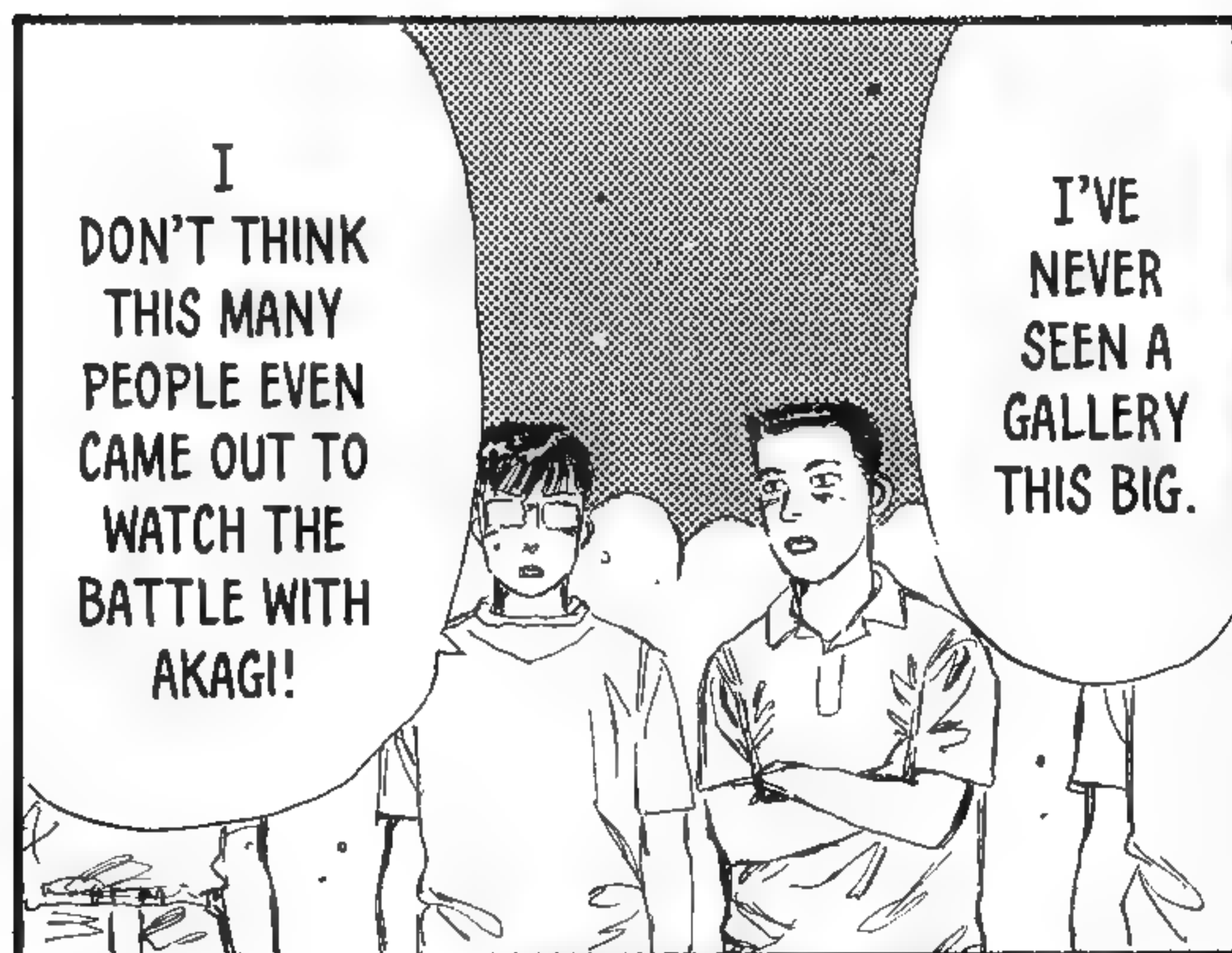
—FUJIWARA  
TOFU

FWIP













► *Ch. 20: Dammit, Pops, Gimme Back the Eight-Six!*









I KEEP FEELING WORSE AND WORSE...

WHAT AM I GONNA DO?



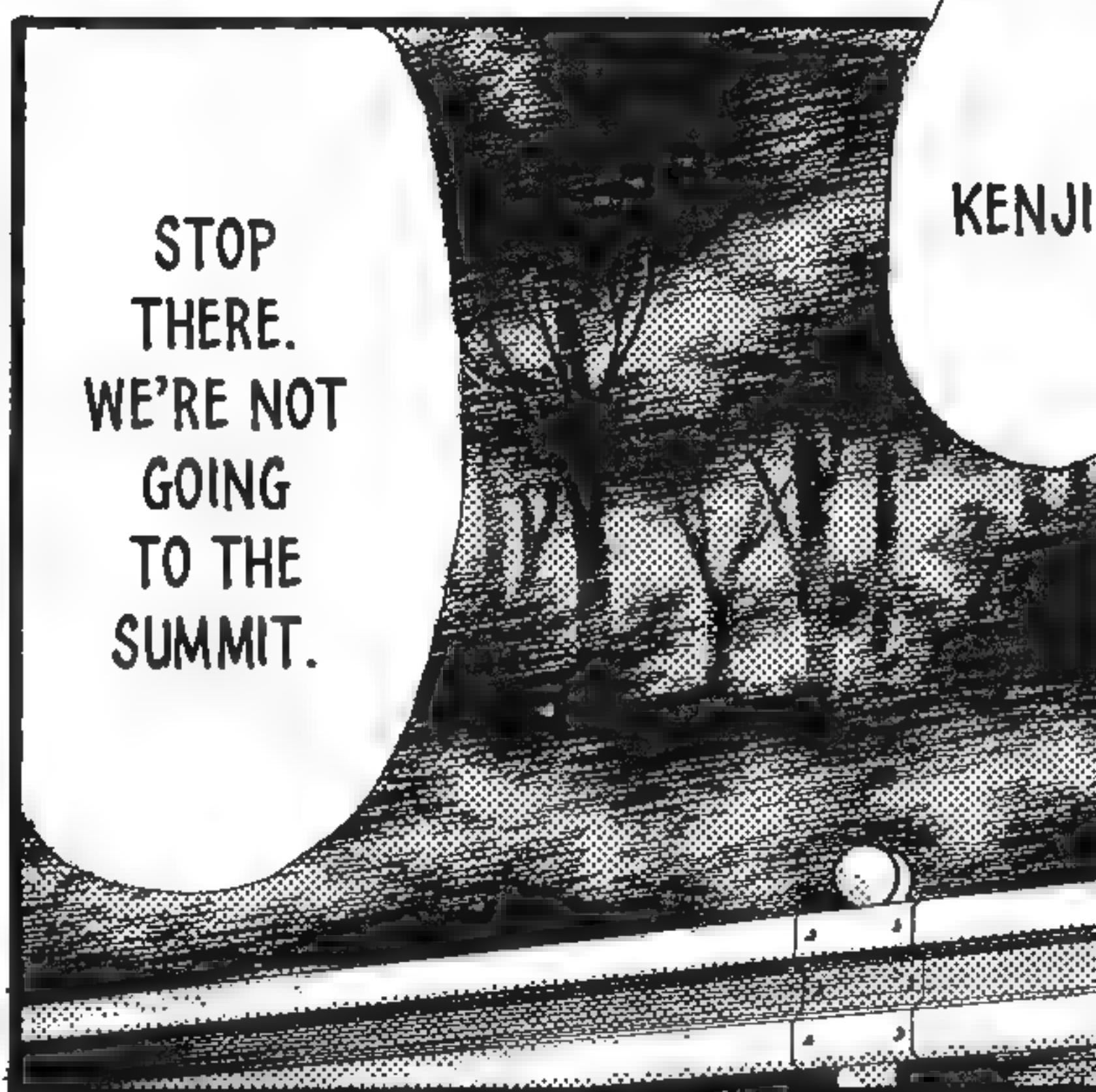
I THINK THERE'S EVEN MORE OF THEM THAN THERE WERE LAST TIME.

MAN, LOOK AT ALL THESE PEOPLE.

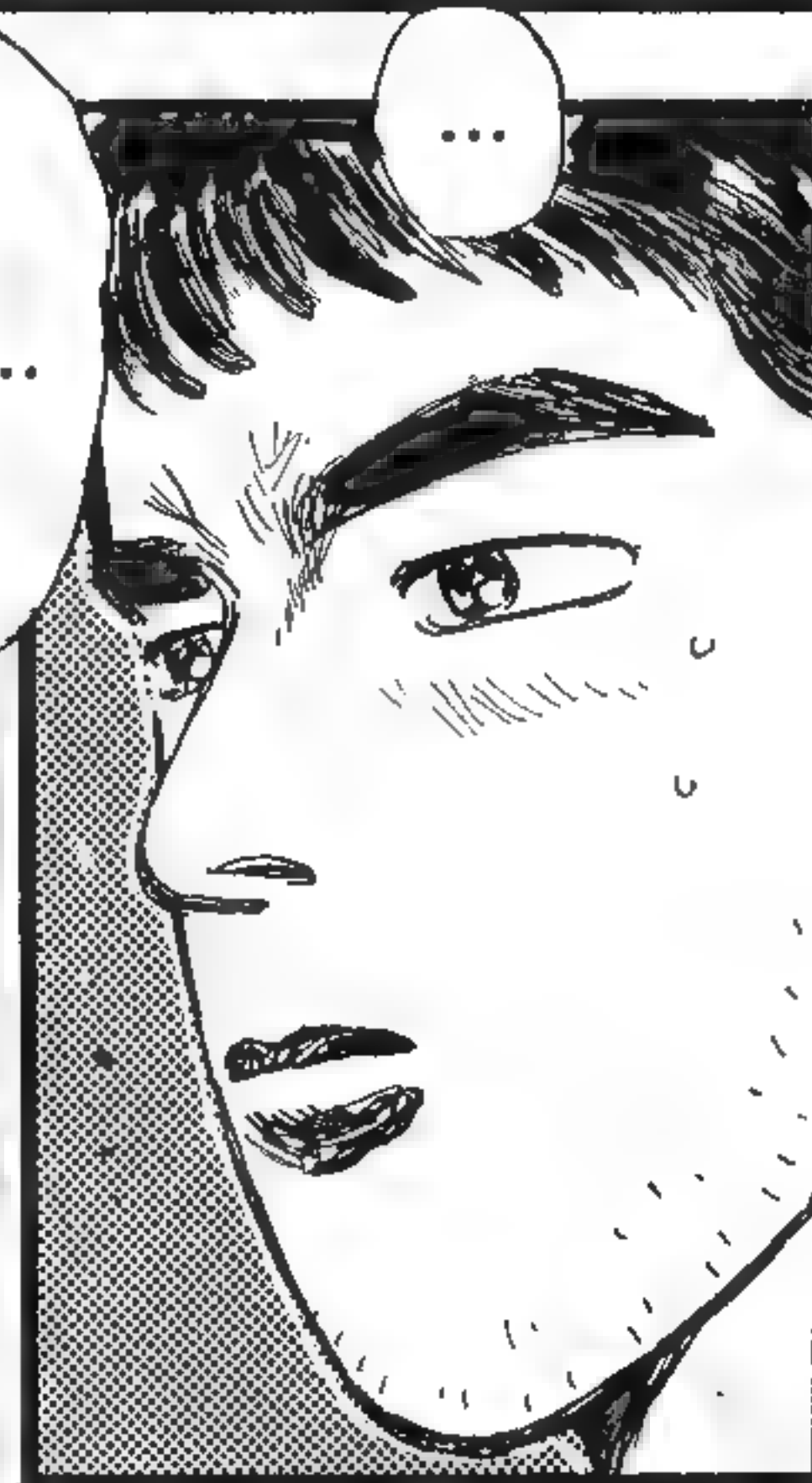


WHY NOT? WEREN'T WE GOING TO APOLOGIZE TO THE NIGHT KIDS?

WHAT ?!



STOP THERE. WE'RE NOT GOING TO THE SUMMIT.



KENJI...



BUT IT'S WAY TOO LATE TO SHRUG THIS OFF AS A MISUNDERSTANDING.

WE WERE. PAST TENSE.



BUT WE DO NEED A PLAN. SOMETHING GOOD...

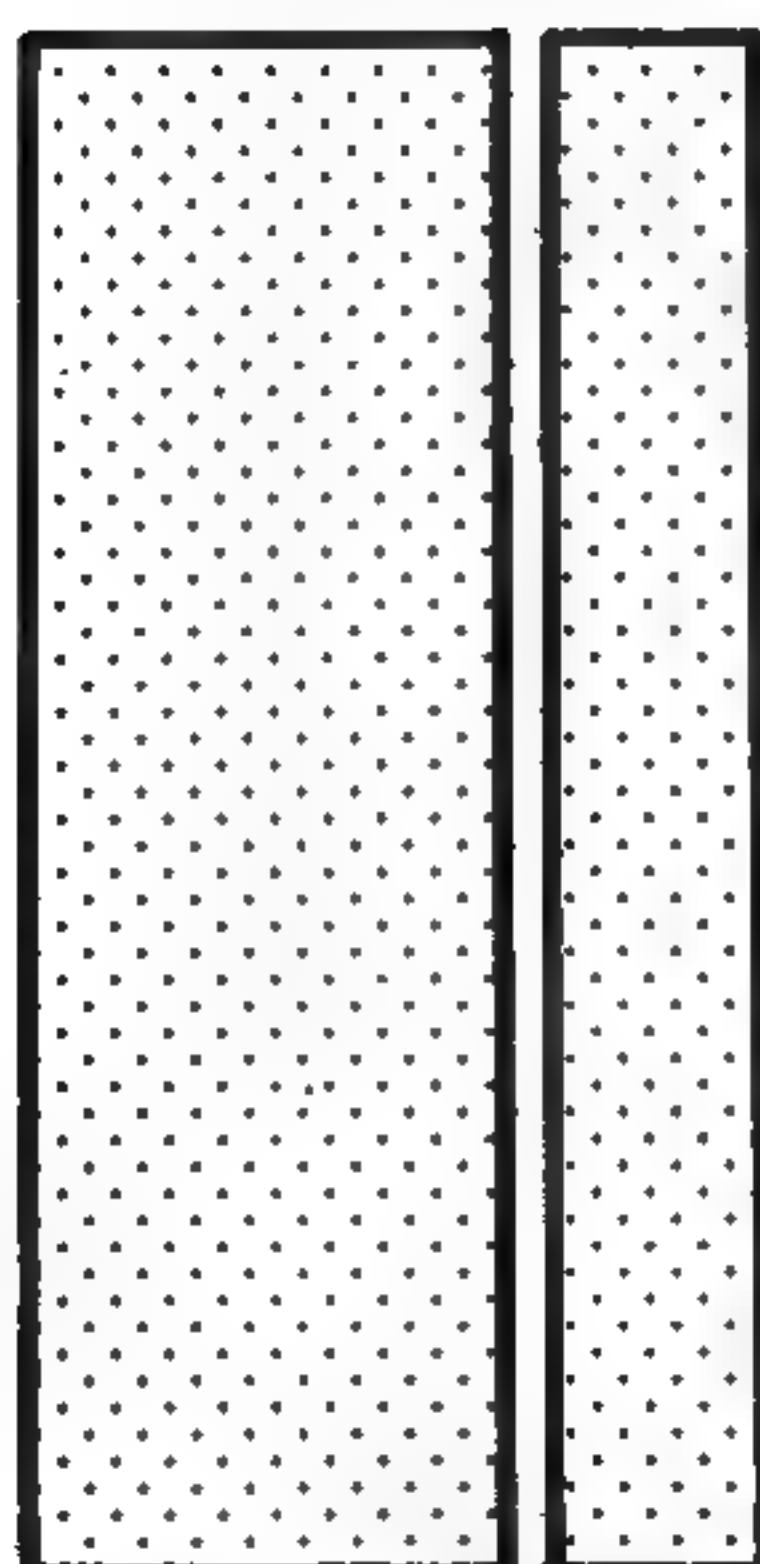
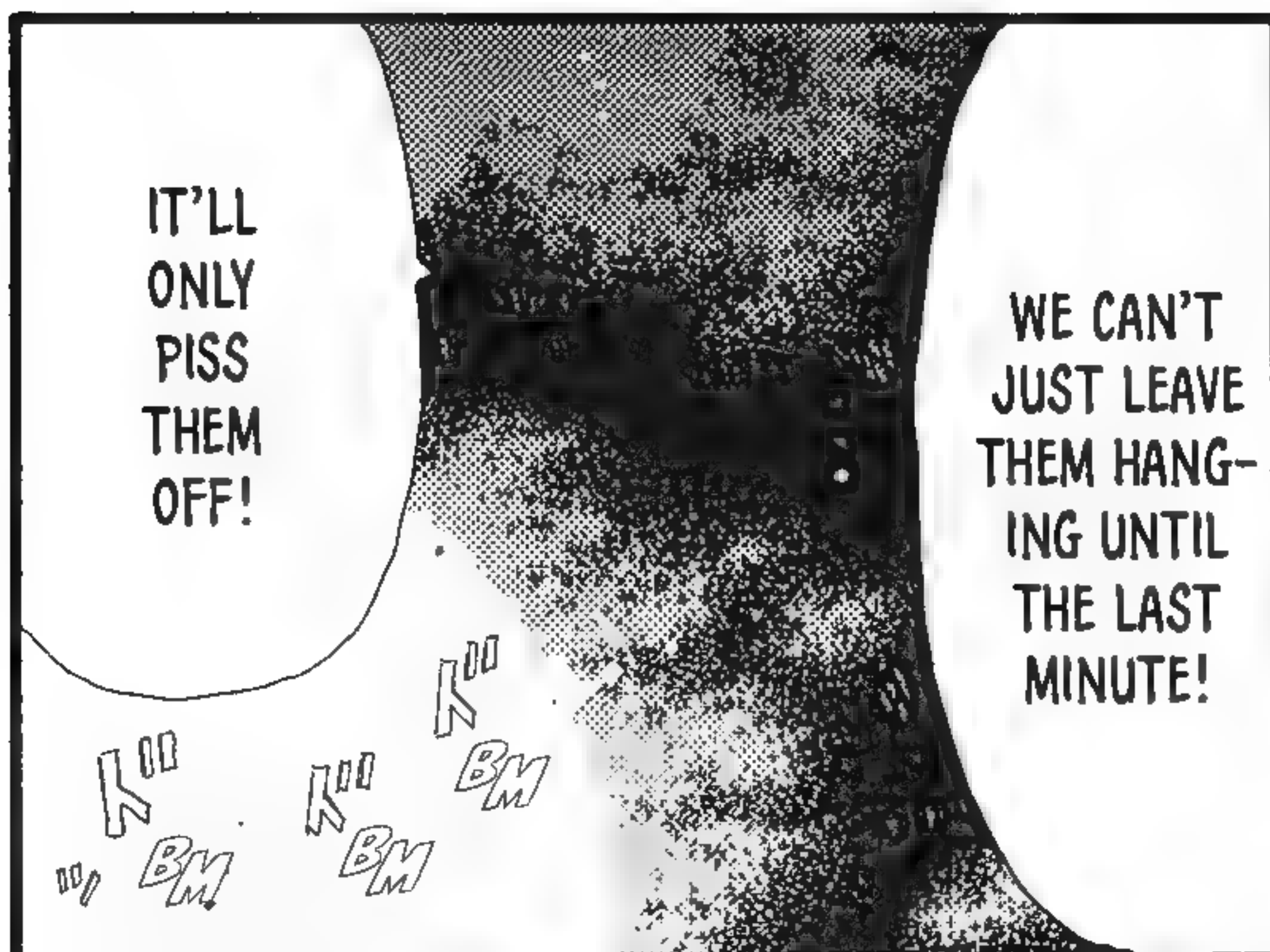
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M THINKING.



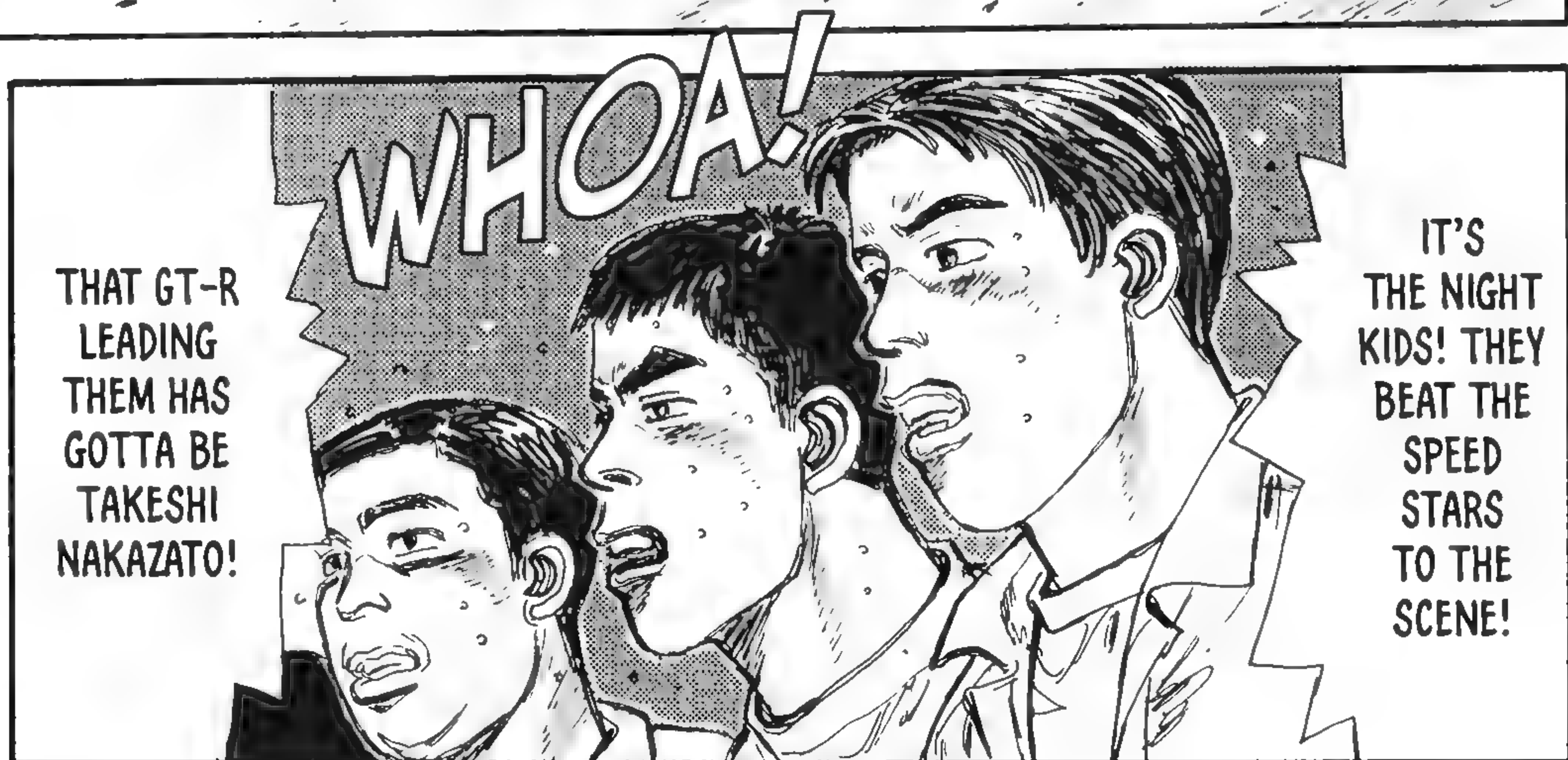
WE JUST GHOST THEM?

YEAH, OKAY, BUT SO WHAT?













RRRAATAT

NO  
WONDER  
THEY  
CALL IT  
THE KING  
OF THE  
STREETS!

MAN! THAT  
THING'S GOT  
AGGRESSION  
TO SPARE!



I'VE  
NEVER  
BEEN SO  
SCARED  
IN MY  
LIFE!

IKETANI-  
SENPAI, I  
REALLY THINK  
WE SHOULD  
APOLOGIZE  
SOONER  
RATHER THAN  
LATER...

TAAATAT

THEY'VE  
COME OUT  
IN FORCE.

SO THOSE  
ARE THE  
NIGHT  
KIDS!





WE  
SHOULD GO  
TALK TO  
TAKUMI,  
JUST ONE  
MORE  
TIME!



NO.  
I HAVEN'T  
GIVEN  
UP HOPE  
YET.



THE  
ONLY  
WAY TO  
FIND  
OUT  
IS TO  
RACE!

WHO  
SAYS HE  
CAN'T?



I DON'T KNOW.  
I DON'T FEEL  
RIGHT PUSHING  
TAKUMI INTO  
A BATTLE HE  
CAN'T WIN.

BUT THIS IS A  
MOUNTAINSIDE—  
A MOUNTAINSIDE  
TAKUMI'S BEEN  
DRIVING NONSTOP  
FOR FIVE YEARS!

MAYBE  
IF THEY  
WERE ON A  
RACECOURSE,  
SURE.

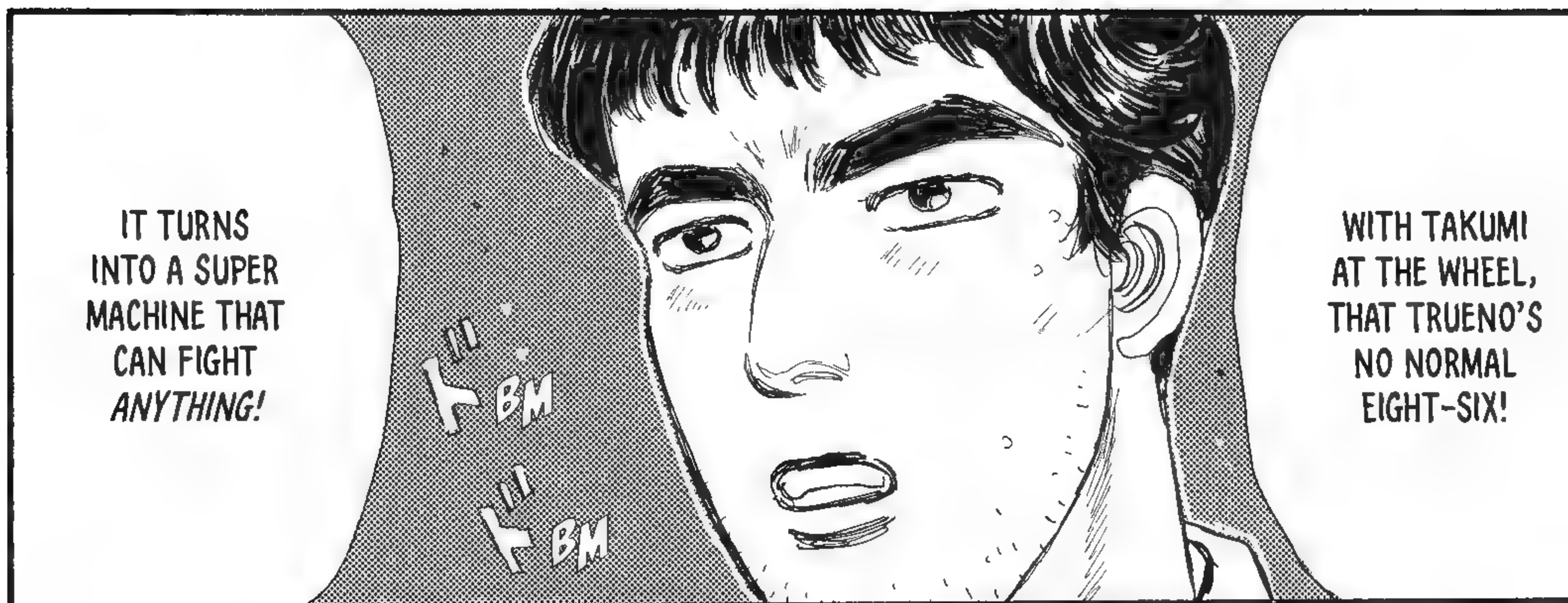


HE'S  
RACING  
TAKESHI  
NAKAZATO—  
IN A GT-R!



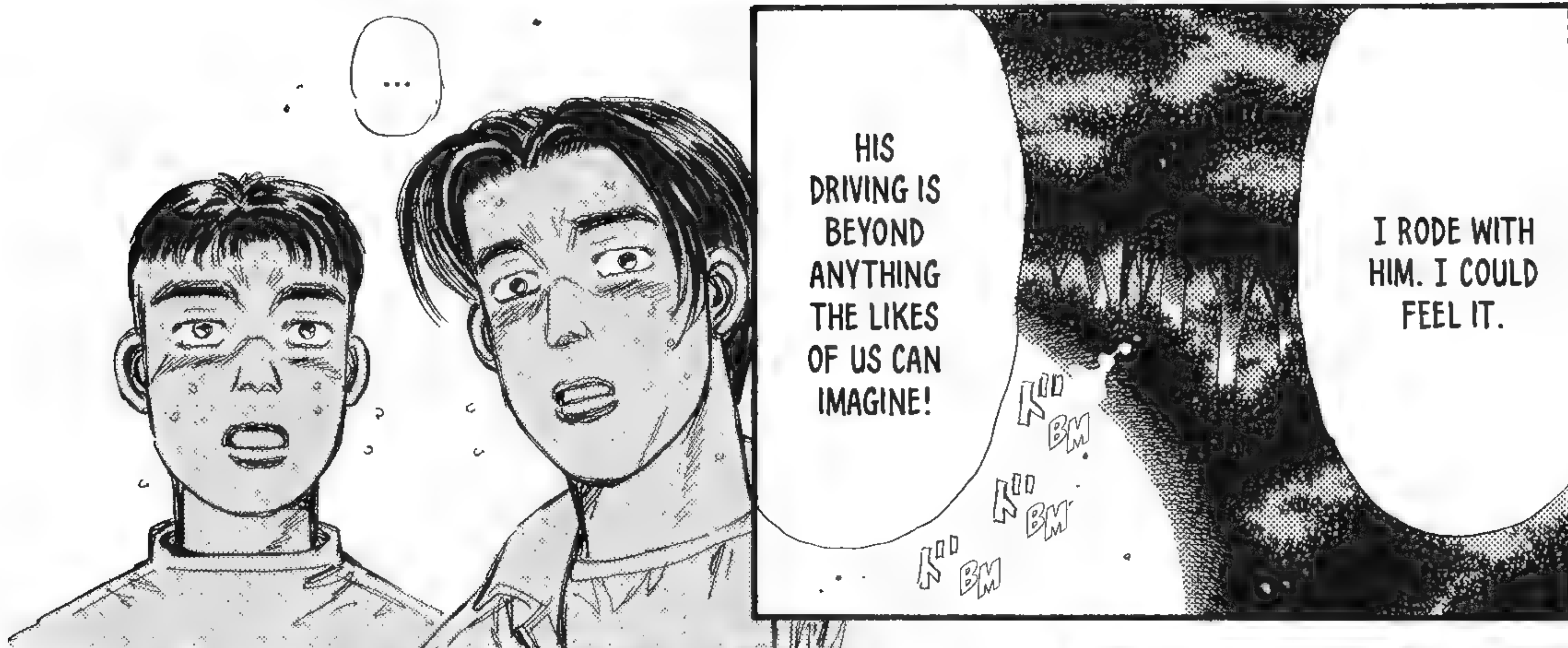
COMMON  
SENSE SAYS HE  
CAN'T! YOU'RE  
A RACER—JUST  
THINK ABOUT  
IT! YOU'LL  
SEE!





IT TURNS  
INTO A SUPER  
MACHINE THAT  
CAN FIGHT  
ANYTHING!

WITH TAKUMI  
AT THE WHEEL,  
THAT TRUENO'S  
NO NORMAL  
EIGHT-SIX!



HIS  
DRIVING IS  
BEYOND  
ANYTHING  
THE LIKES  
OF US CAN  
IMAGINE!

I RODE WITH  
HIM. I COULD  
FEEL IT.



WHO'S  
THAT,  
IKETANI-  
SENPAI?

I CAN  
THINK OF  
ONE OTHER  
GUY WHO  
I KNOW  
SENSES  
WHAT  
I DO.

THE WAY  
HE GOES  
DOWNHILL  
IS ALMOST  
UNREAL!



KEISUKE  
TAKAHASHI  
OF THE RED  
SUNS!

THE ONLY  
OTHER PERSON  
WHO'S SEEN  
TAKUMI'S  
DRIVING AT  
SUCH CLOSE  
RANGE.

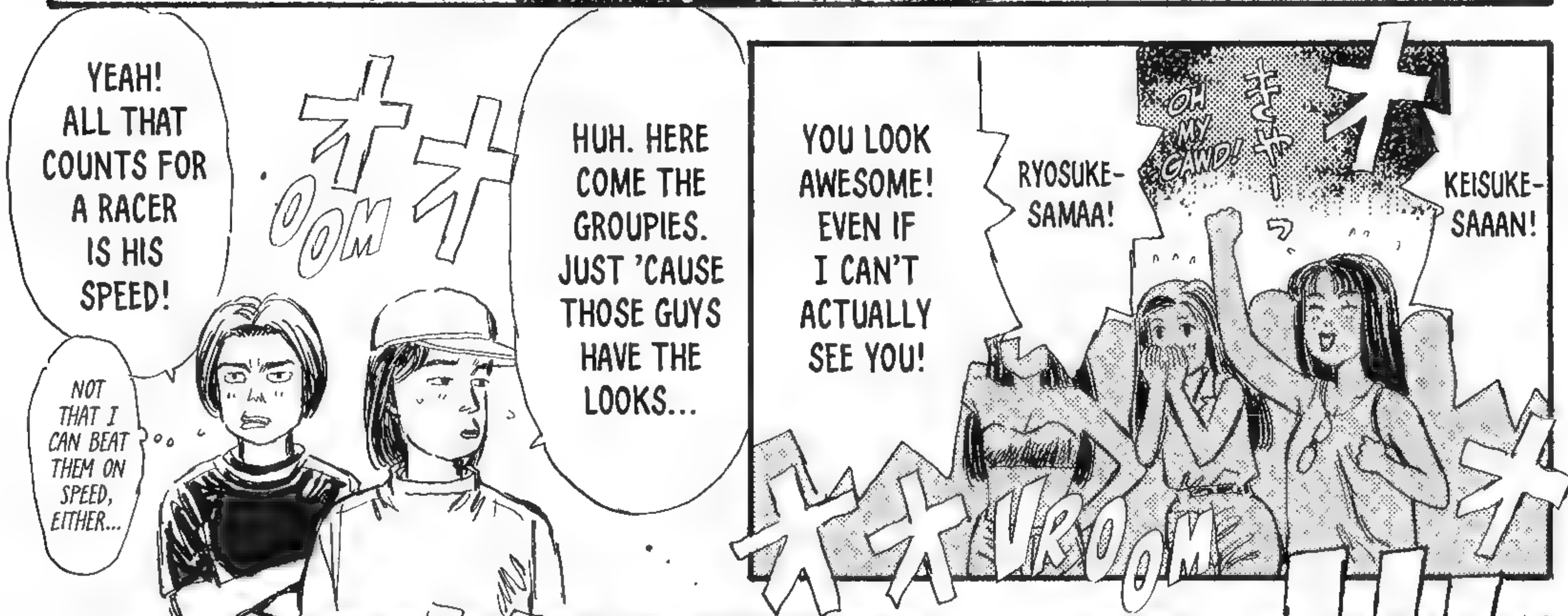






THE STARS  
ARE ALL HERE!  
MAN, I'M  
ON PINS AND  
NEEDLES!

IT'S THE  
TAKAHASHI  
BROTHERS!  
THEY'RE  
HERE!



YEAH!  
ALL THAT  
COUNTS FOR  
A RACER  
IS HIS  
SPEED!

NOT  
THAT I  
CAN BEAT  
THEM ON  
SPEED,  
EITHER...

HUH. HERE  
COME THE  
GROUPIES.  
JUST 'CAUSE  
THOSE GUYS  
HAVE THE  
LOOKS...

YOU LOOK  
AWESOME!  
EVEN IF  
I CAN'T  
ACTUALLY  
SEE YOU!

RYOSUKE-  
SAMAA!

KEISUKE-  
SAAAN!

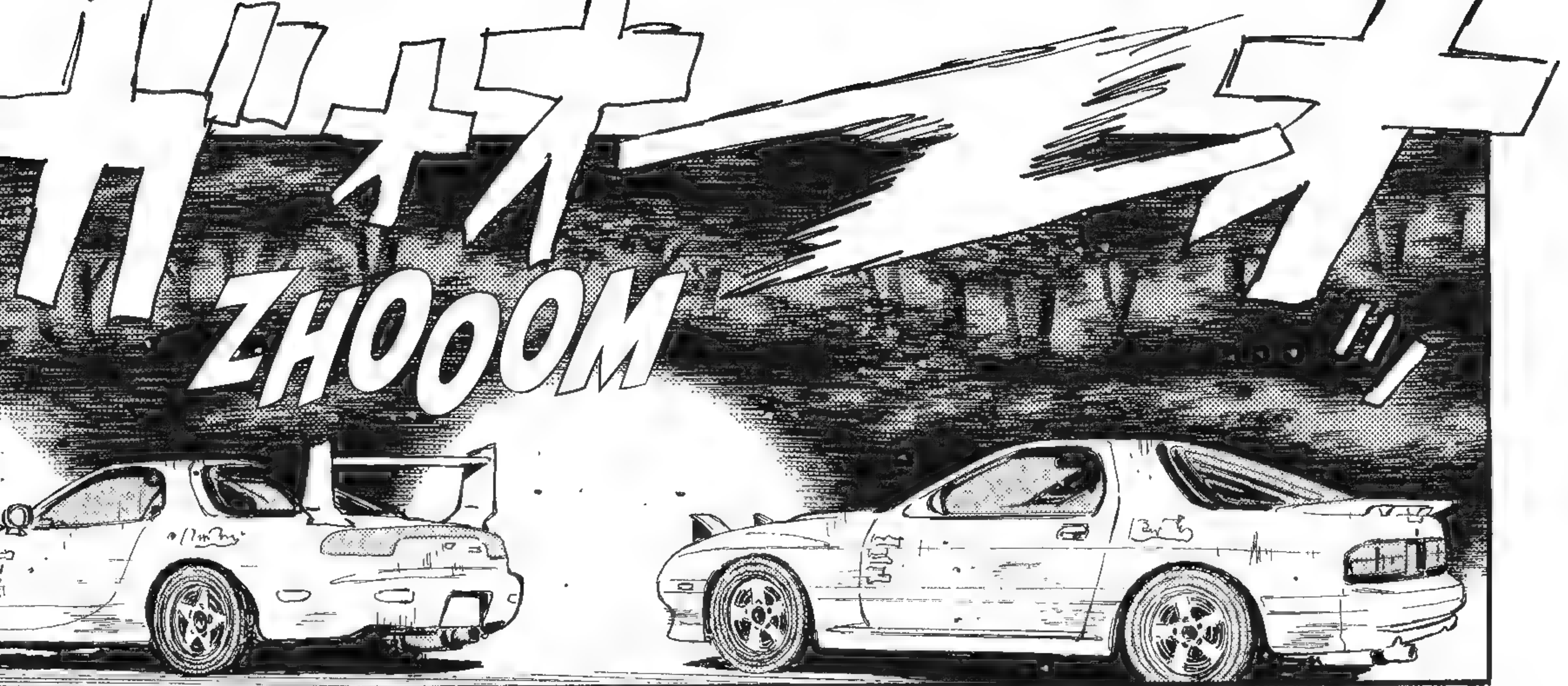


DAMMIT,  
I KNEW THEY  
WOULD BE  
HERE!

THE  
TAKAHASHI  
BROTHERS!







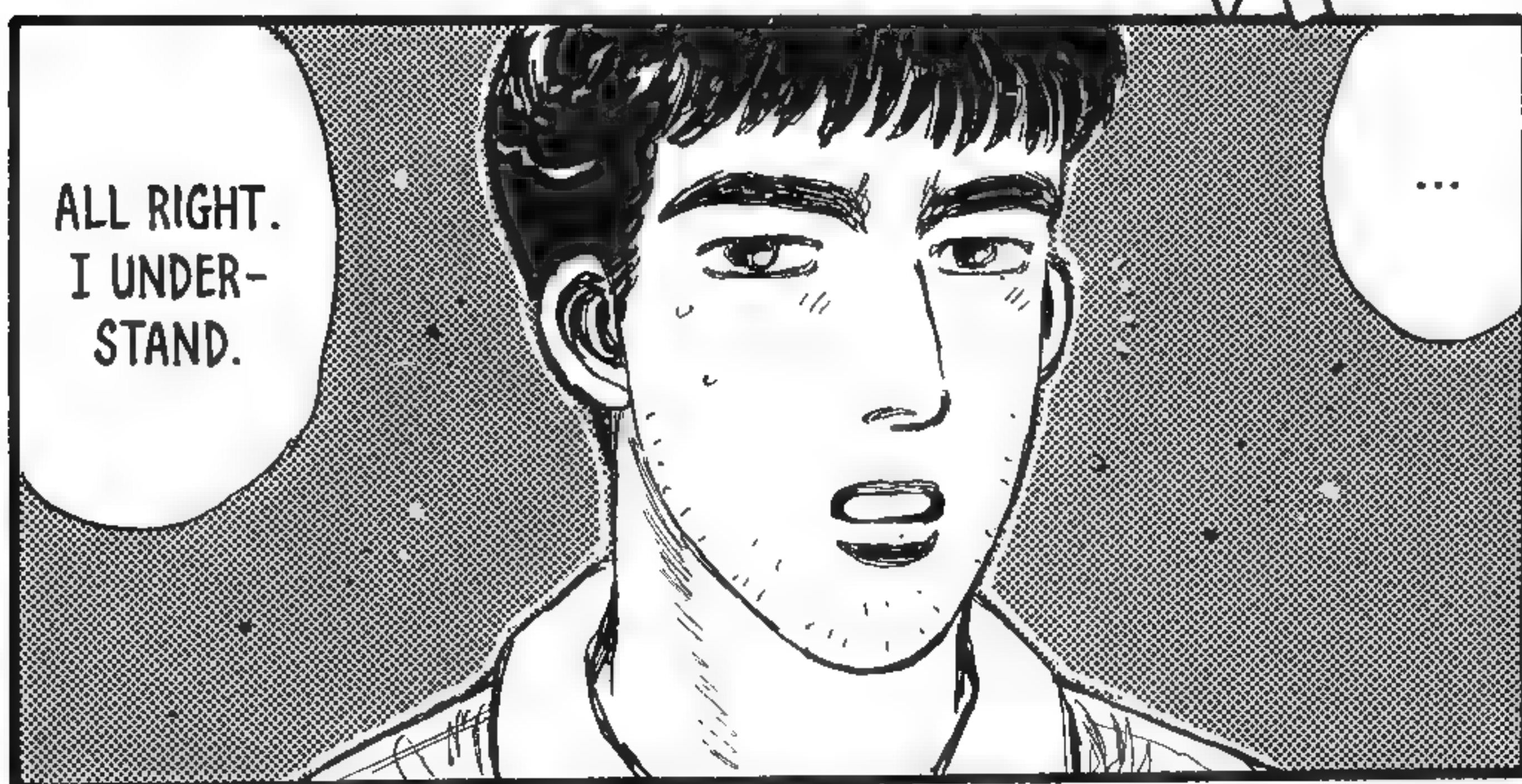
IKETANI-SENPAI... I'M GOING TO STAY HERE.

GET IN, ITSUKI... ITSUKI?

POP A U-TURN, KENJI—WE'RE GOING TO THE FUJIWARA TOFU SHOP!



I'M GOING TO CONVINCE TAKUMI TO DRIVE IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!



ALL RIGHT. I UNDERSTAND.

...



...AND I CAN'T FACE TAKUMI RIGHT NOW, ANYWAY.

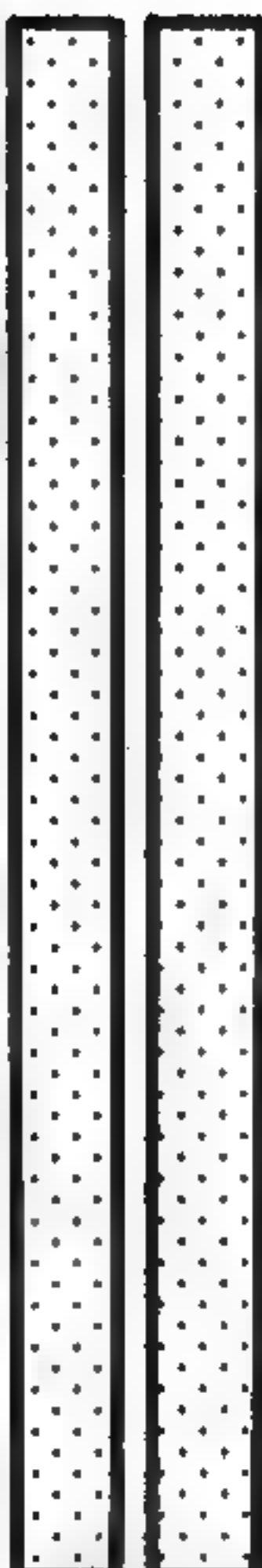
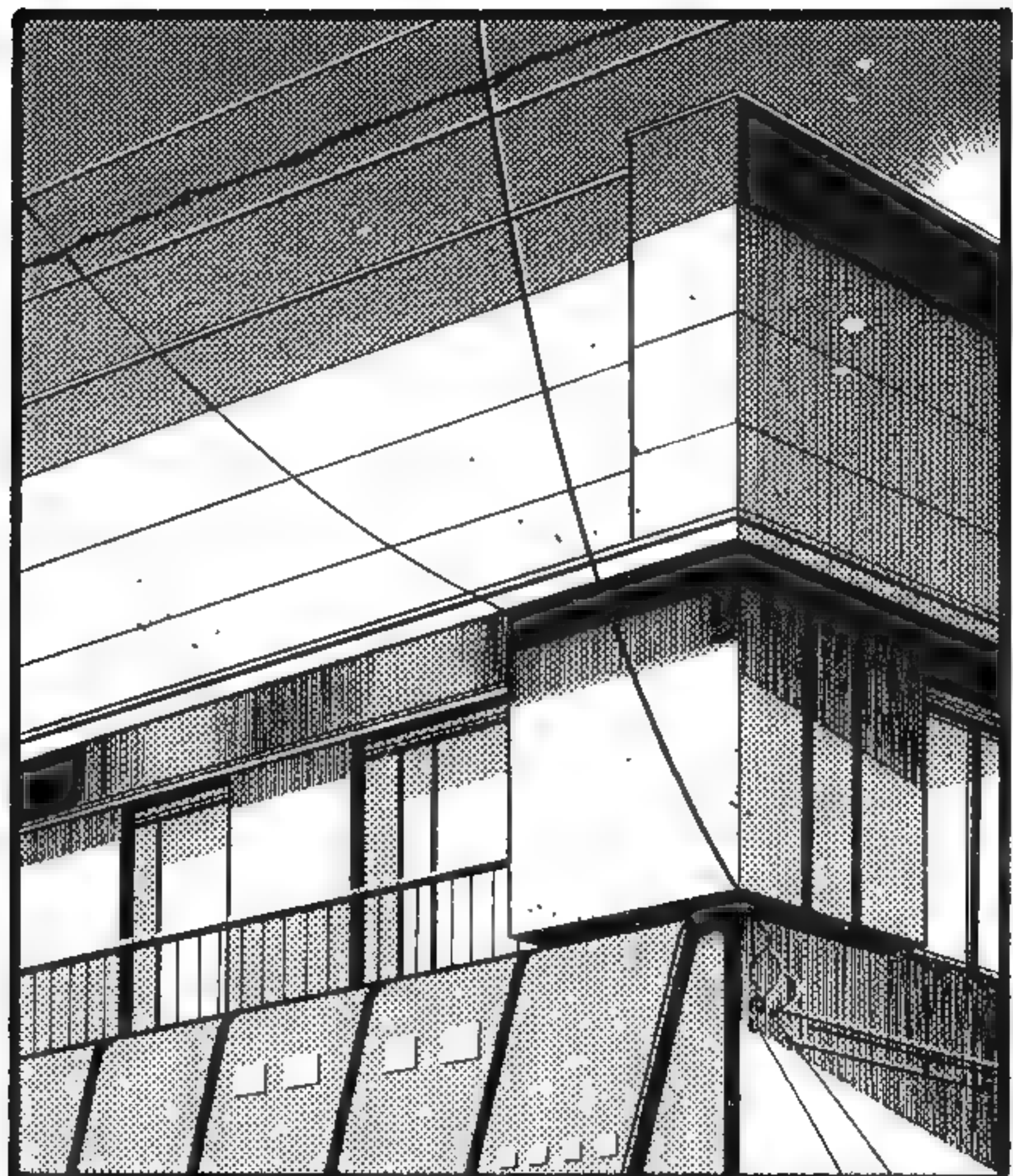
I DON'T THINK I COULD DO YOU ANY GOOD...



WE'LL BE BACK WITH TAKUMI, I SWEAR!

DON'T DO ANYTHING UNTIL THE LAST POSSIBLE SECOND, ITSUKI!





I WANT  
TO BE UP  
ON MOUNT  
AKINA SO  
BAD.

I'M SO  
ANGRY  
I COULD  
DIE.  
WHY?



I  
GUESS  
IT'S  
PRIDE.

BUT I  
DO FEEL  
SOMETHING  
FOR THE  
SKILLS I  
GOT IN FIVE  
YEARS OF  
DRIVING  
THAT  
SLOPE.



I  
DON'T EVEN  
KNOW IF  
I ACTUALLY  
LIKE RACING  
THAT MUCH.



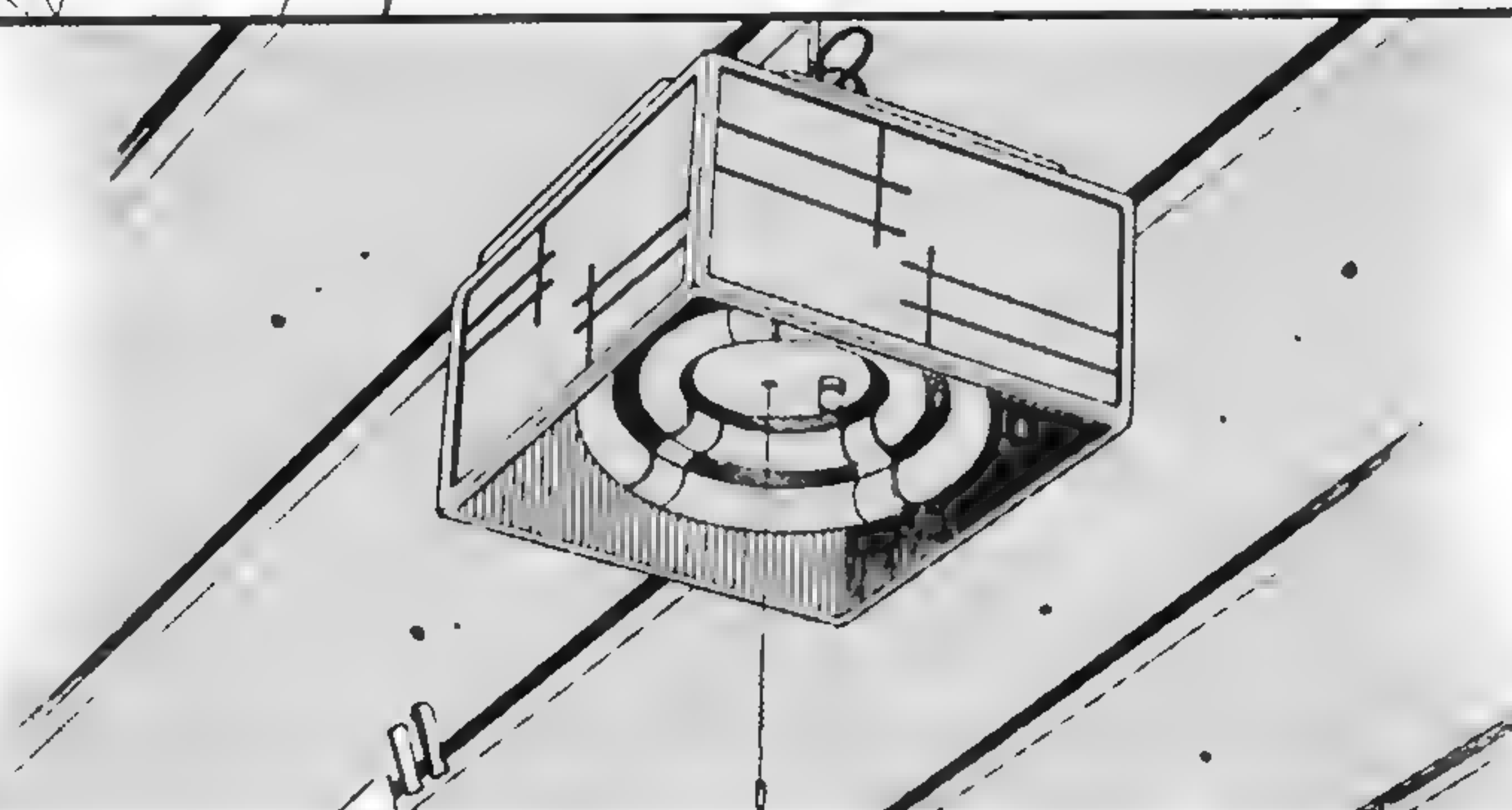
I WANT  
TO THROW  
EVERYTHING  
I'VE GOT AT  
THIS GT-R  
EVERYONE  
IS SO CRAZY  
ABOUT.

I WANT TO  
FIND OUT IF  
THOSE SKILLS  
CAN GET ME  
THROUGH.



IN FACT,  
THAT MAKES  
ME WANT TO  
RACE EVEN  
WORSE!

I'VE NEVER  
FELT LIKE THIS  
BEFORE. THE  
CAR'S GONE,  
BUT I CAN'T  
LET IT GO.

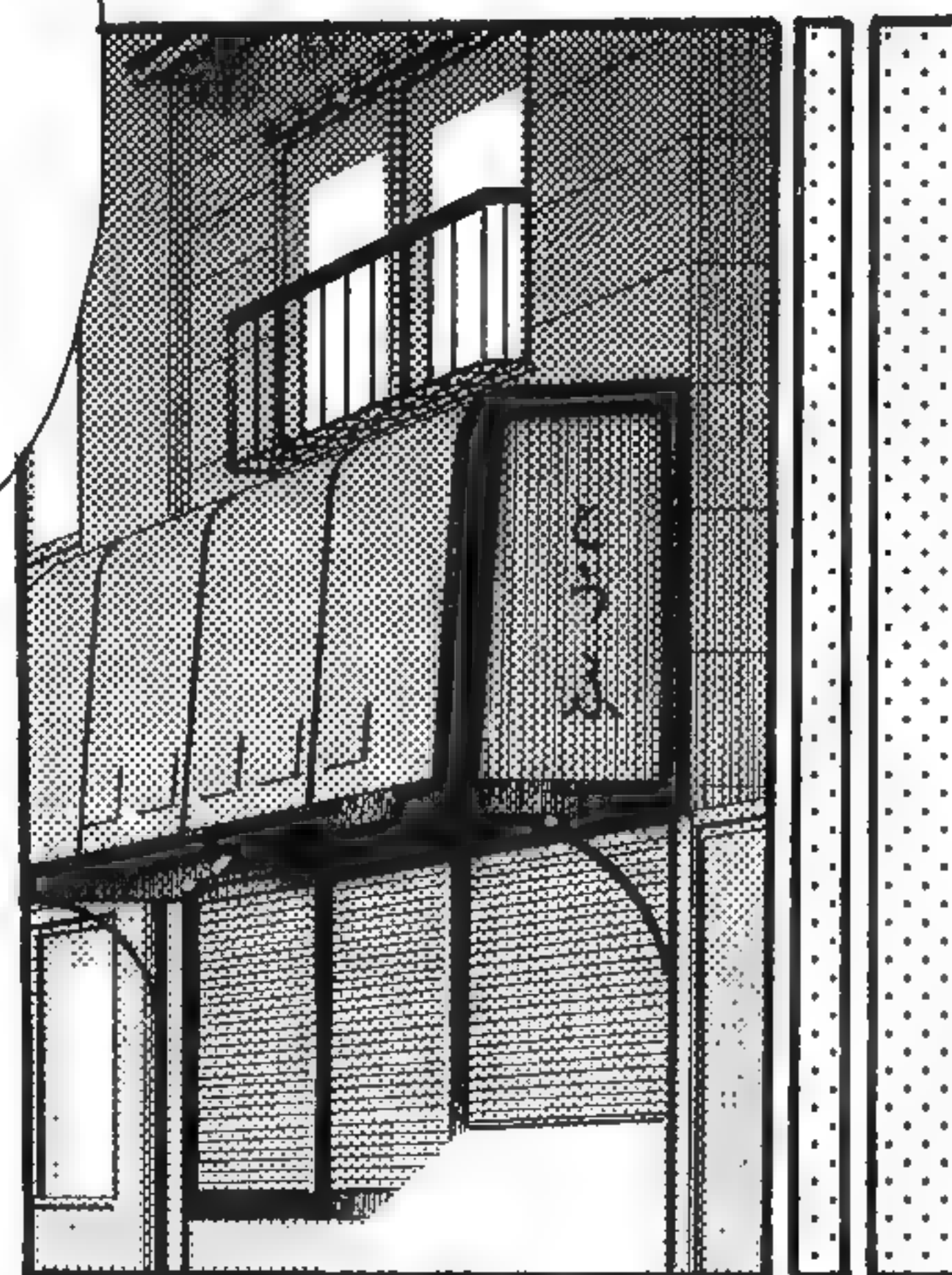
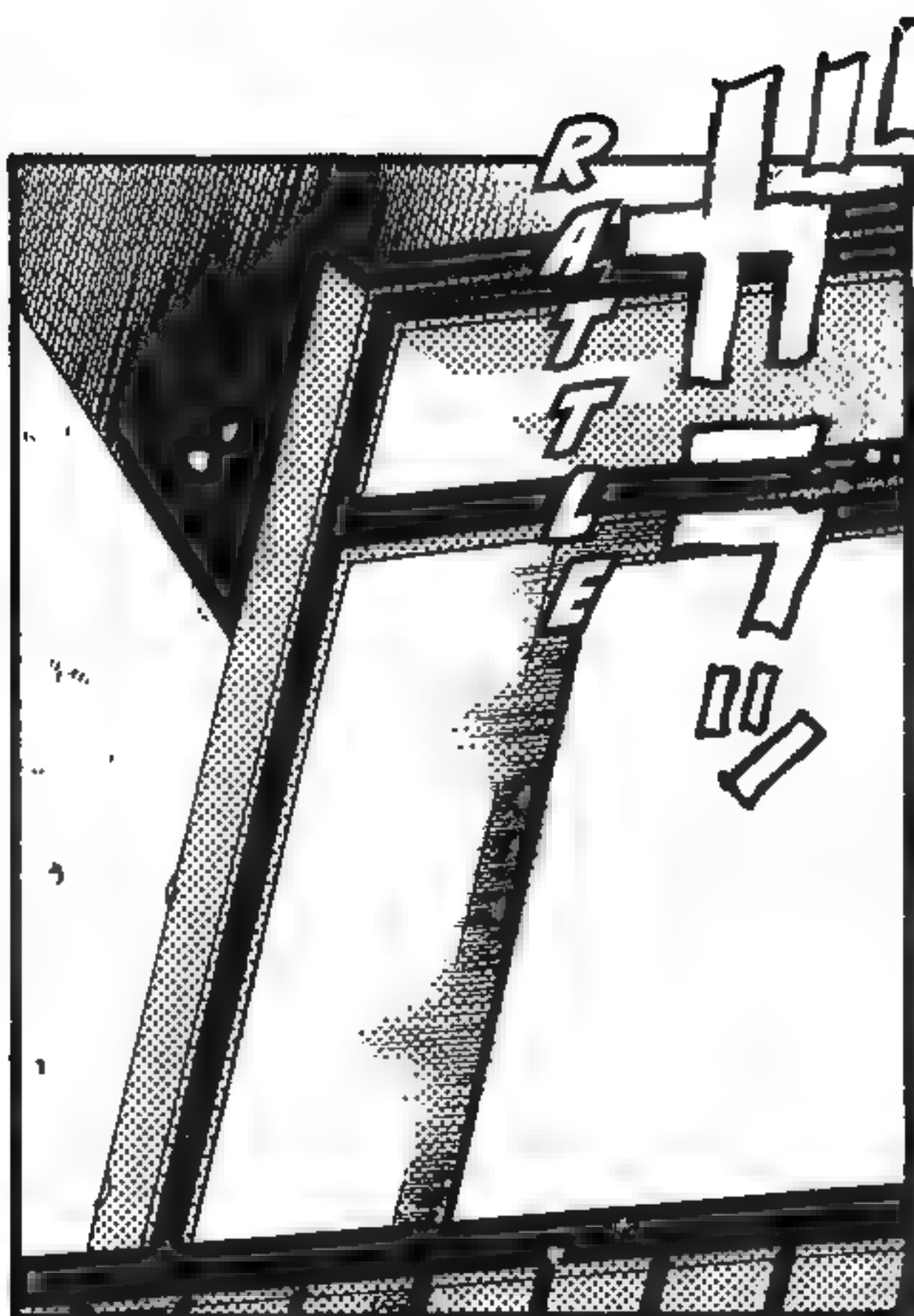


WHAT  
ROCK  
DID YOU  
CRAWL  
UNDER?!

DAMMIT,  
POPS!











I THOUGHT HE  
WAS PROBABLY  
OUT DRINKING,  
BUT I PHONED  
EVERY DIVE I  
COULD THINK  
OF.

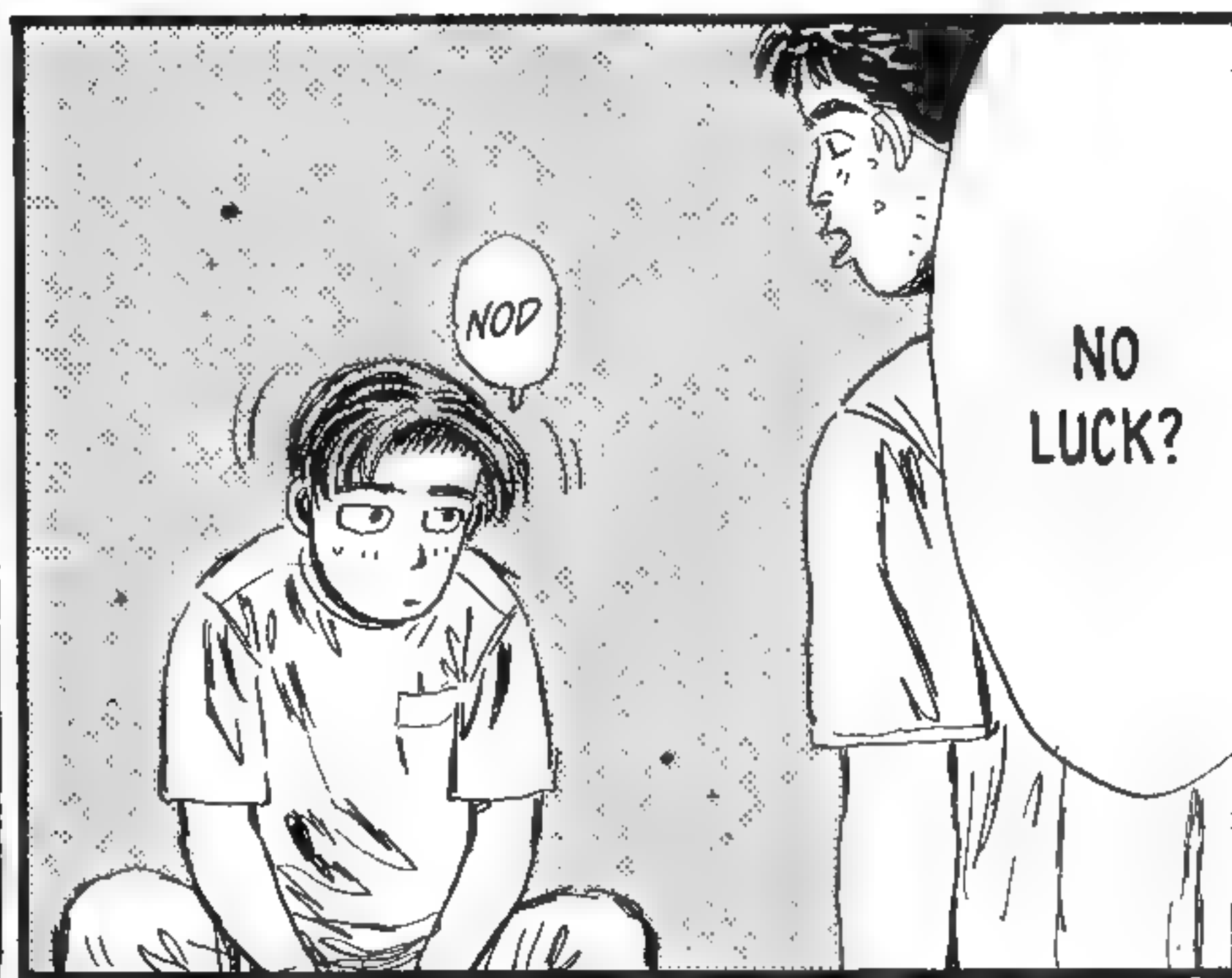


ARE YOU  
SURE YOU  
DON'T  
KNOW  
WHERE HE  
MIGHT  
BE?!

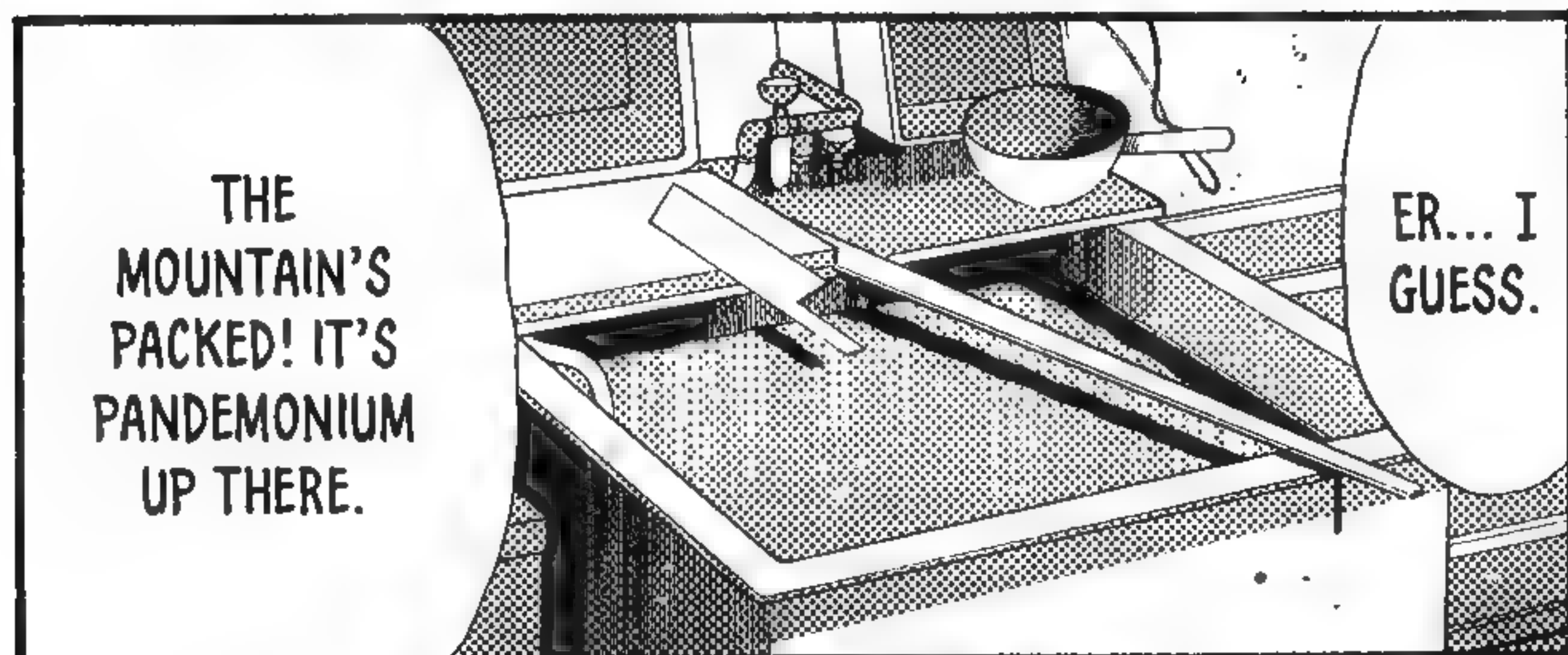


WHAT'S  
THE POINT  
OF TRYING TO  
CONVINCE YOU  
TO RACE WHEN  
YOU DON'T  
EVEN HAVE A  
CAR?!

ARGH...  
I NEVER  
WOULD HAVE  
SEEN THIS  
COMING!

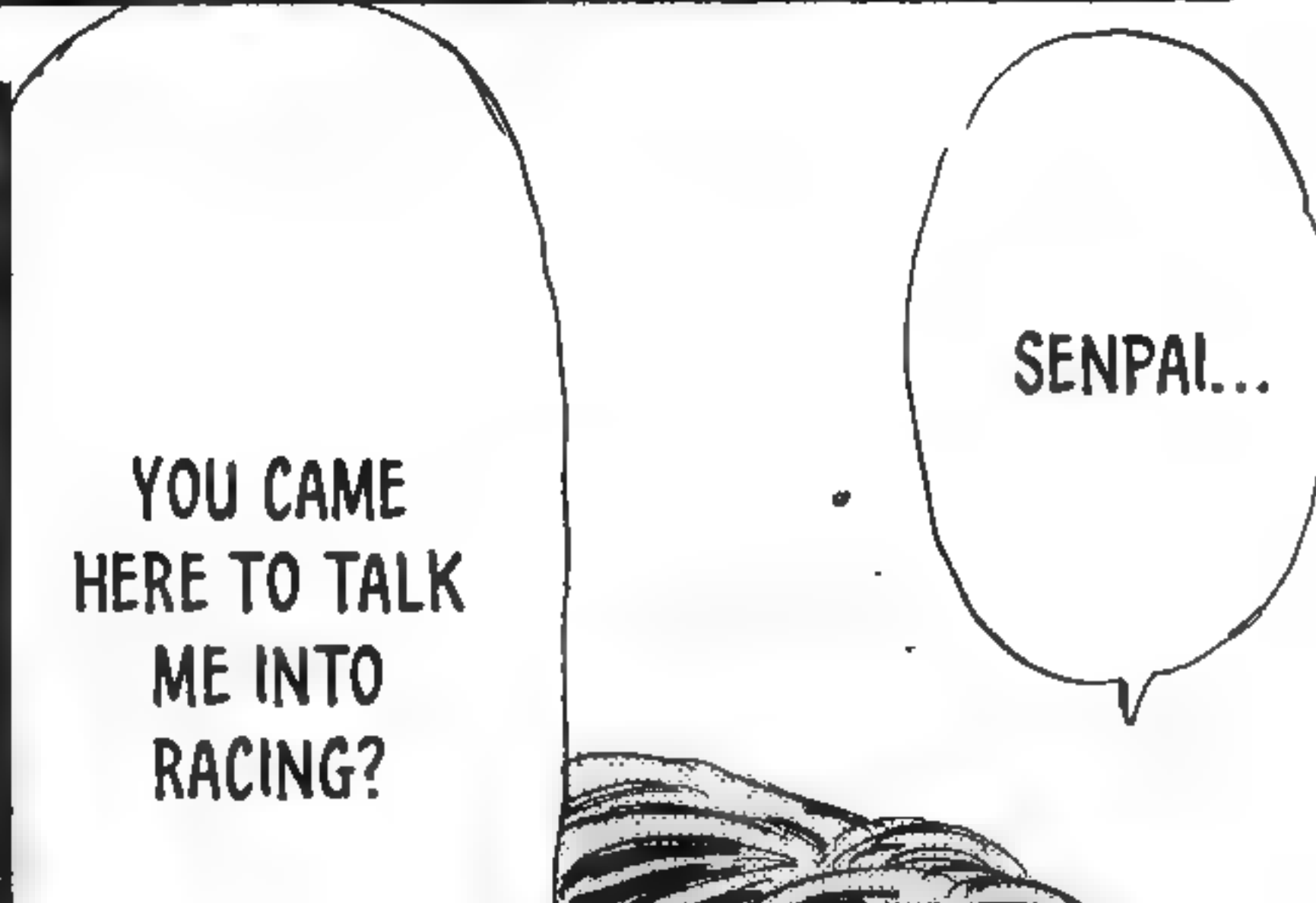


NO  
LUCK?



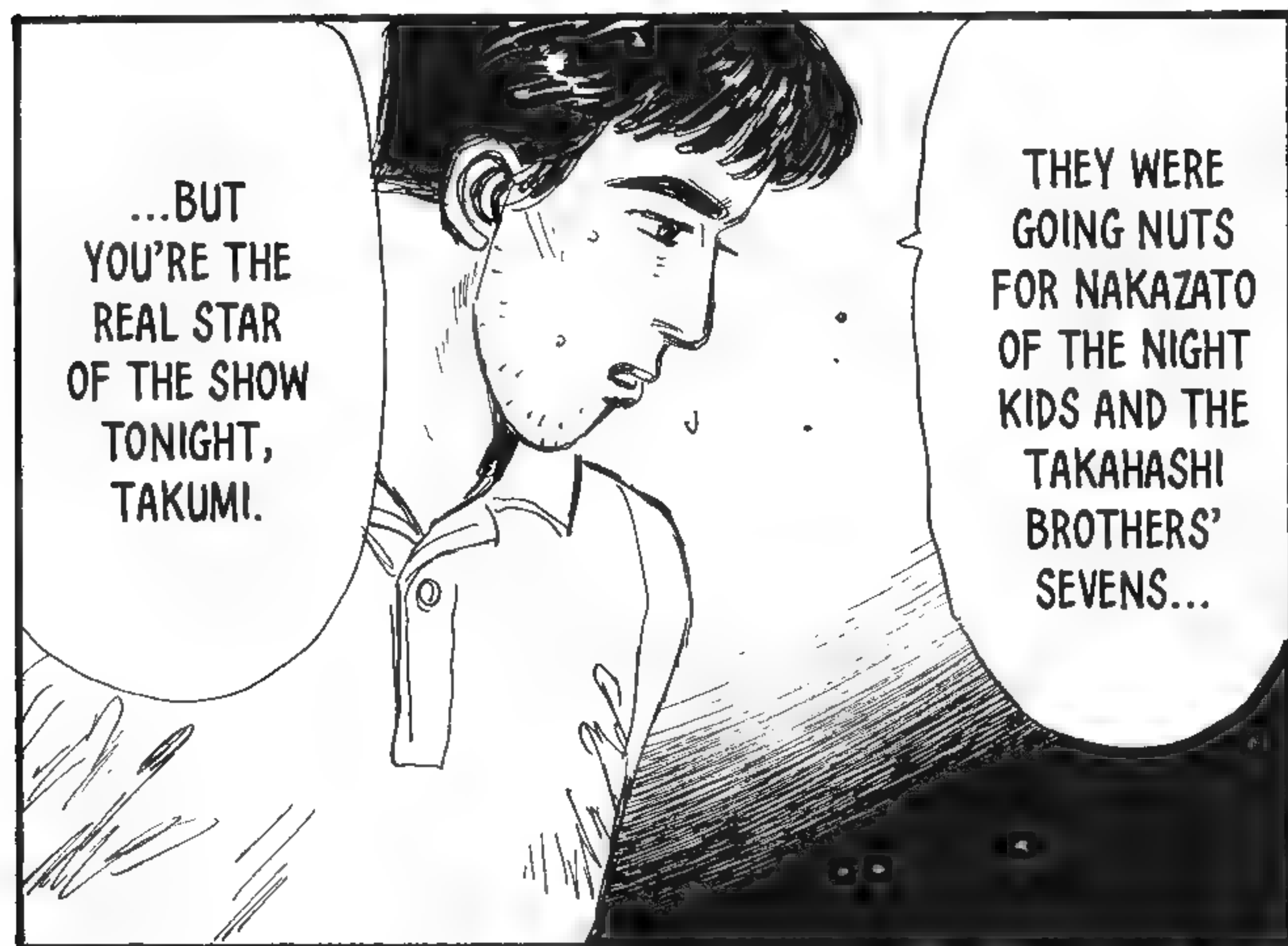
THE  
MOUNTAIN'S  
PACKED! IT'S  
PANDEMONIUM  
UP THERE.

ER... I  
GUESS.



YOU CAME  
HERE TO TALK  
ME INTO  
RACING?

SENPAI...



...BUT  
YOU'RE THE  
REAL STAR  
OF THE SHOW  
TONIGHT,  
TAKUMI.

THEY WERE  
GOING NUTS  
FOR NAKAZATO  
OF THE NIGHT  
KIDS AND THE  
TAKAHASHI  
BROTHERS'  
SEVENS...

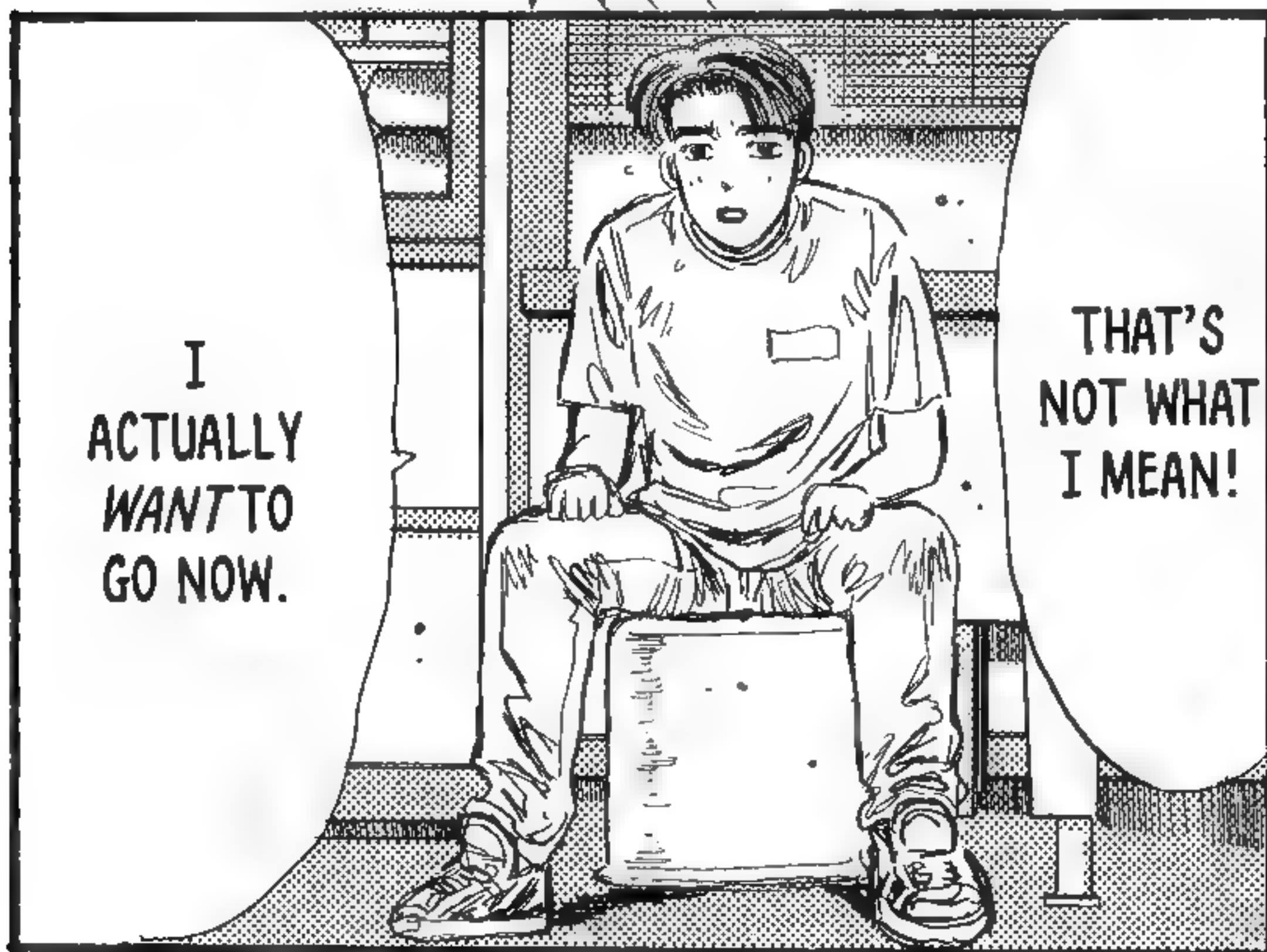






NOT  
ANOTHER  
WORD.  
PLEASE.

ALL  
RIGHT,  
WAIT.



I  
ACTUALLY  
WANT TO  
GO NOW.

THAT'S  
NOT WHAT  
I MEAN!



I GUESS  
I SHOULD'VE  
KNOWN...

YOU STILL  
WON'T  
CHANGE  
YOUR  
MIND?



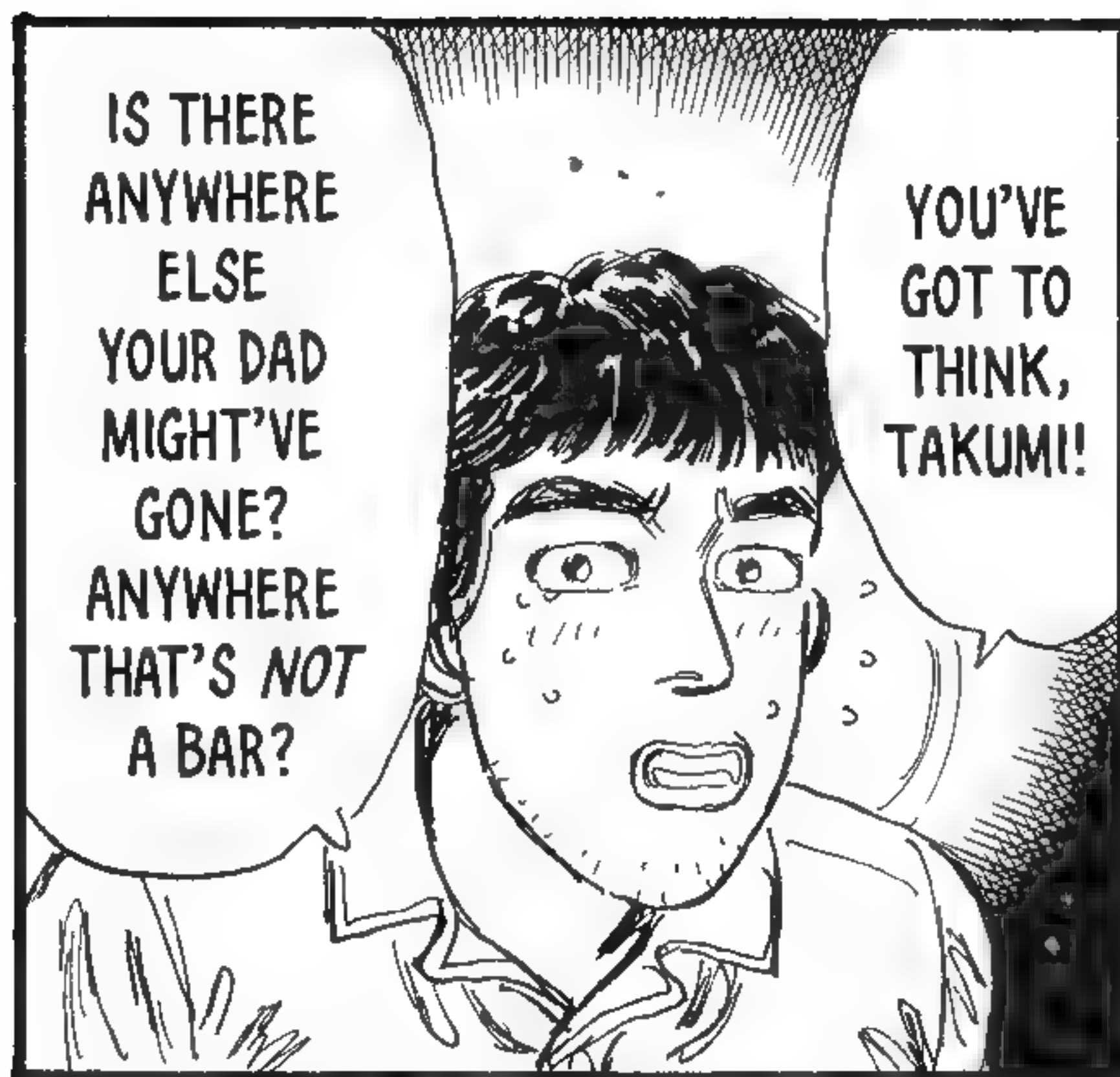
I'VE  
BEEN  
TOTALLY  
BUMMED  
ABOUT IT,  
LET ME  
TELL YOU!

YEAH, BUT  
I'M PRETTY  
MUCH S.O.L.  
WITHOUT  
A CAR.



YOU  
DO?!





IS THERE ANYWHERE ELSE YOUR DAD MIGHT'VE GONE? ANYWHERE THAT'S *NOT* A BAR?

YOU'VE GOT TO THINK, TAKUMI!

I APPRECIATE THE DRAMA, GUYS.

THE PAIN! IT'S TOO MUCH!



ARRGH!  
くぢー

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!

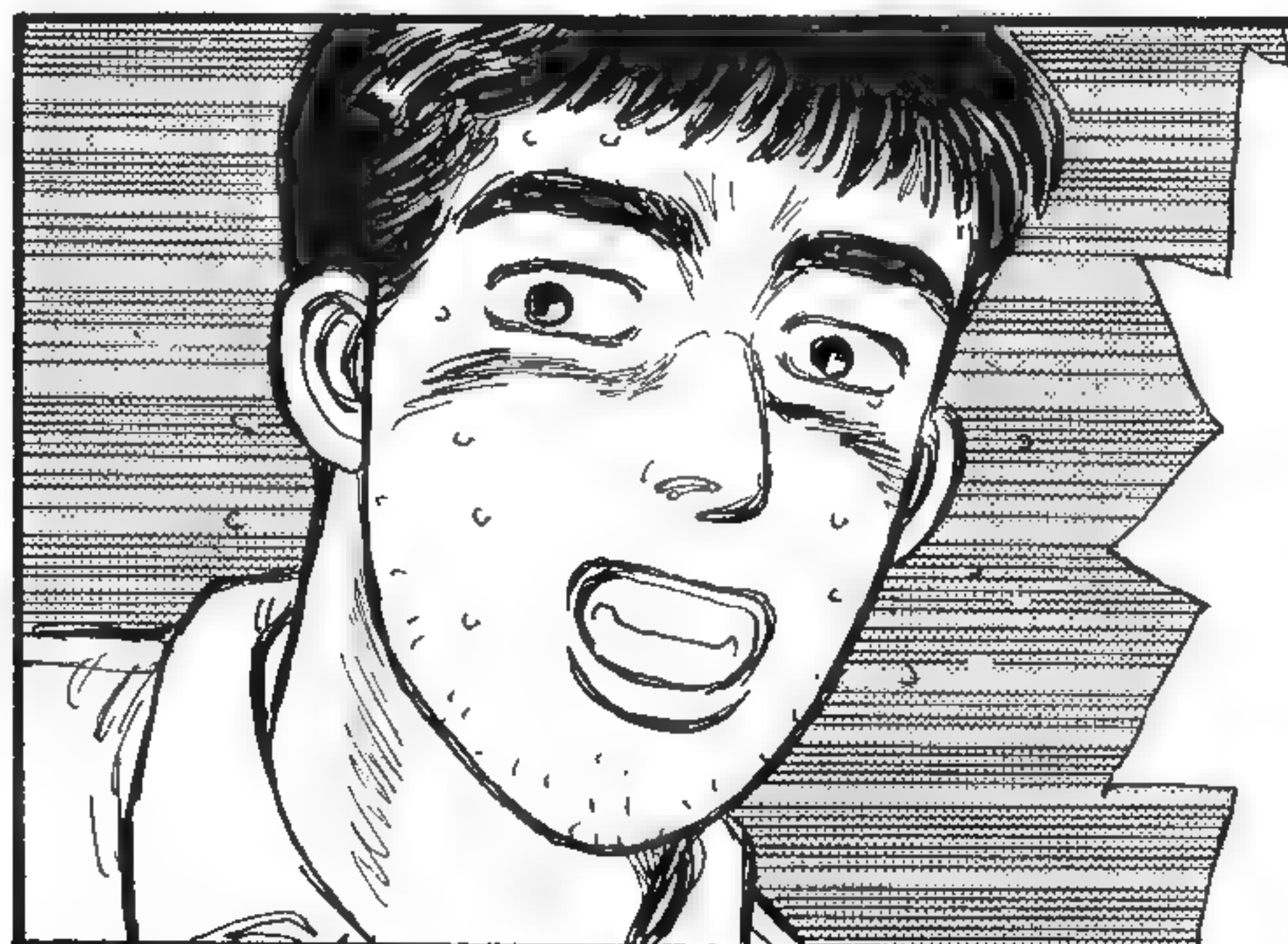
...



BUT WHAT IF ONE OF THE BARS CALLS BACK WHILE WE'RE OUT?

I TOLD THEM ALL TO LET ME KNOW IF HE SHOWS UP.

WE COULD GO LOOK FOR HIM! WE CAN TAKE MY CAR!



I'VE GOT AN IDEA! IF PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, MAYBE YOU COULD RACE KENJI'S 180SX!



GOOD POINT ...



I REALLY DON'T THINK SO, SENPAI.



IT'S AN FR JUST LIKE YOUR EIGHT-SIX, AND IT'S GOT TURBO TO GIVE IT SOME OOMPH! I'LL BET YOU'D TEAR THE PLACE UP IN THAT!





IT'S GOT  
TO BE MINE.  
THE ONE  
I KNOW.

I CAN'T  
RACE IN  
SOMEONE  
ELSE'S  
CAR.



I  
THINK ALL  
WE CAN DO  
IS WAIT AS  
LONG AS WE  
CAN.

RACERS  
FROWN  
ON A GUY  
BORROWING  
SOMEONE  
ELSE'S CAR,  
ANYWAY.



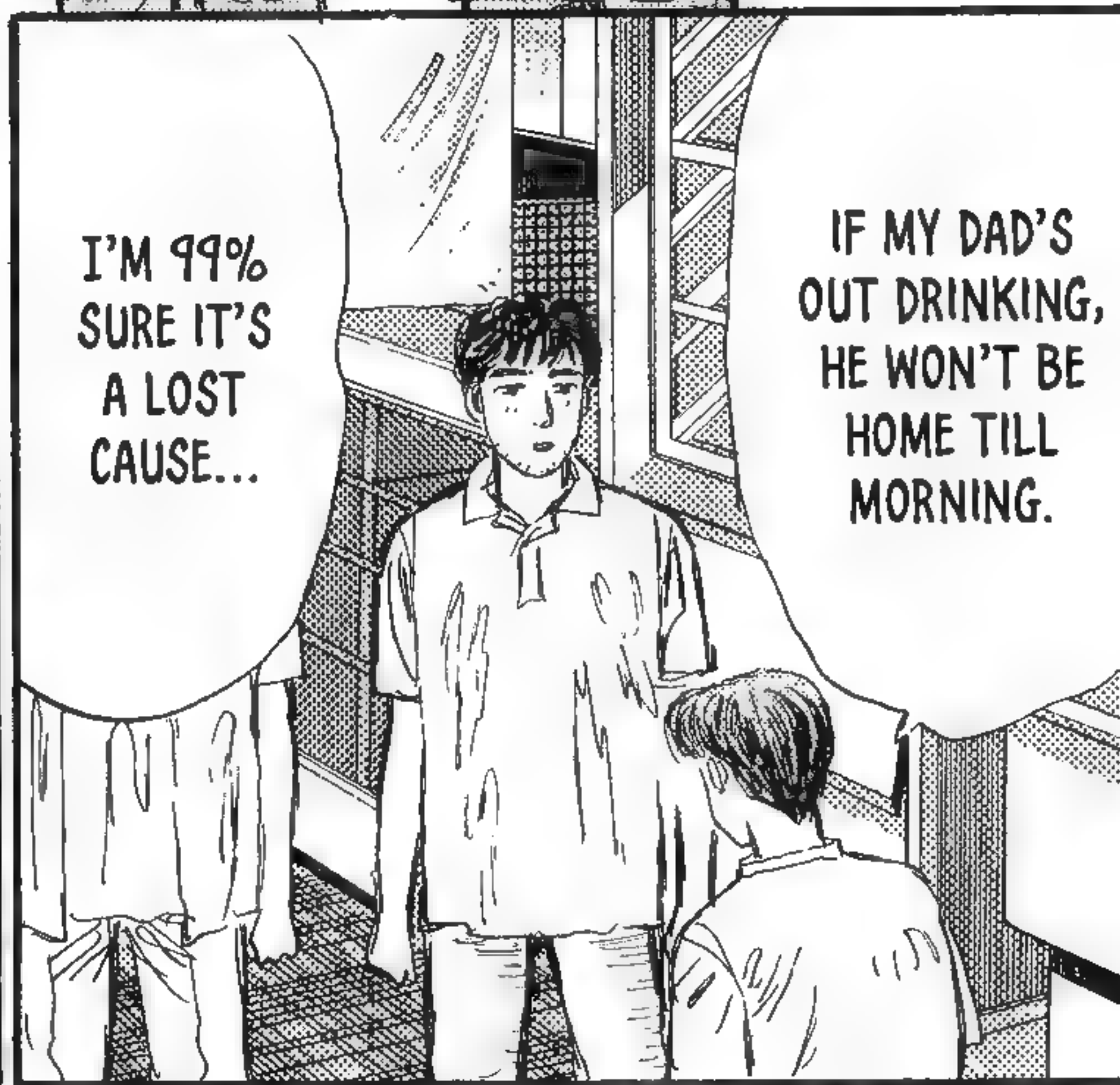
SIGH  
L h h

...  
YEAH,  
I HEAR  
YA.



WE'LL WAIT  
TOGETHER.

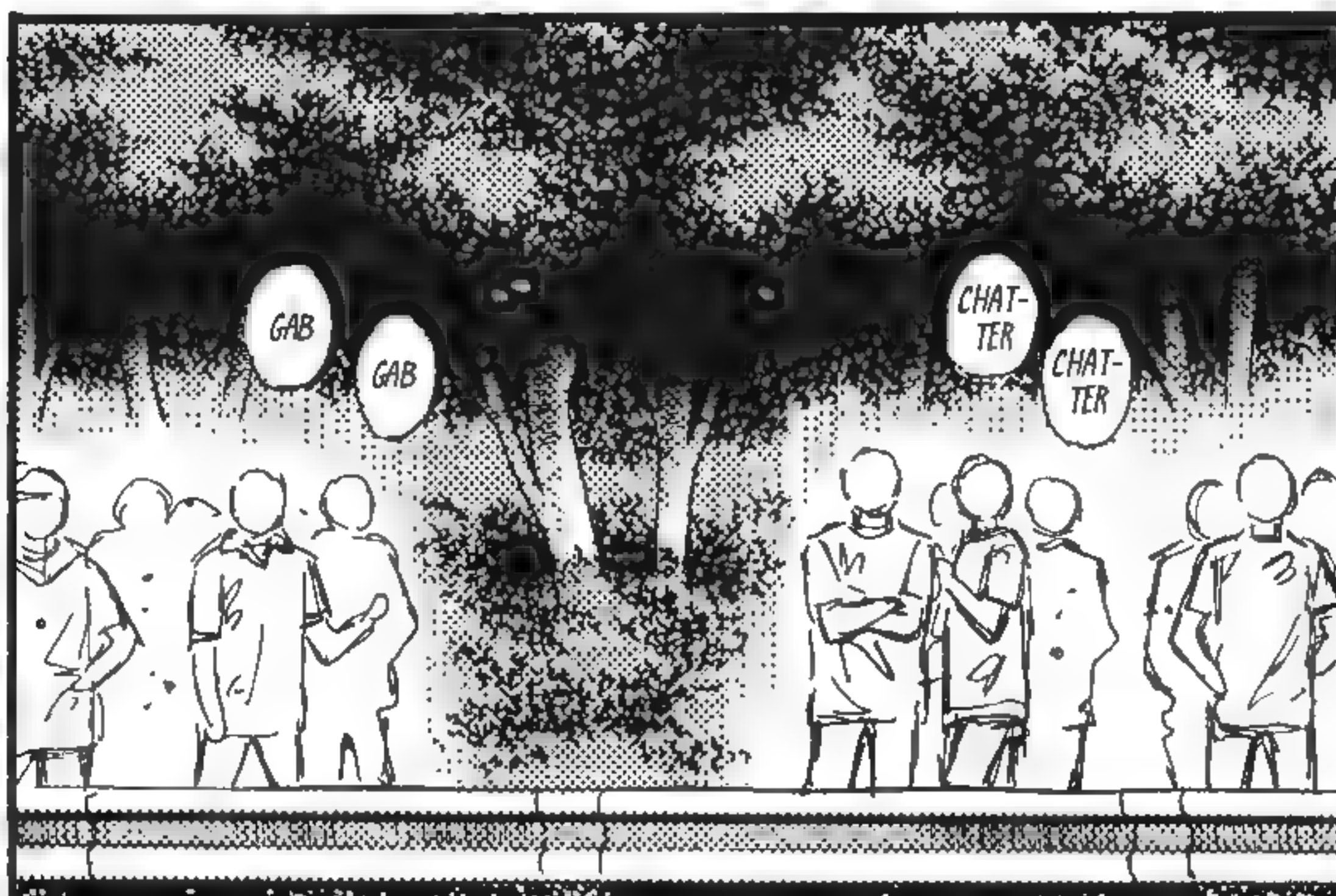
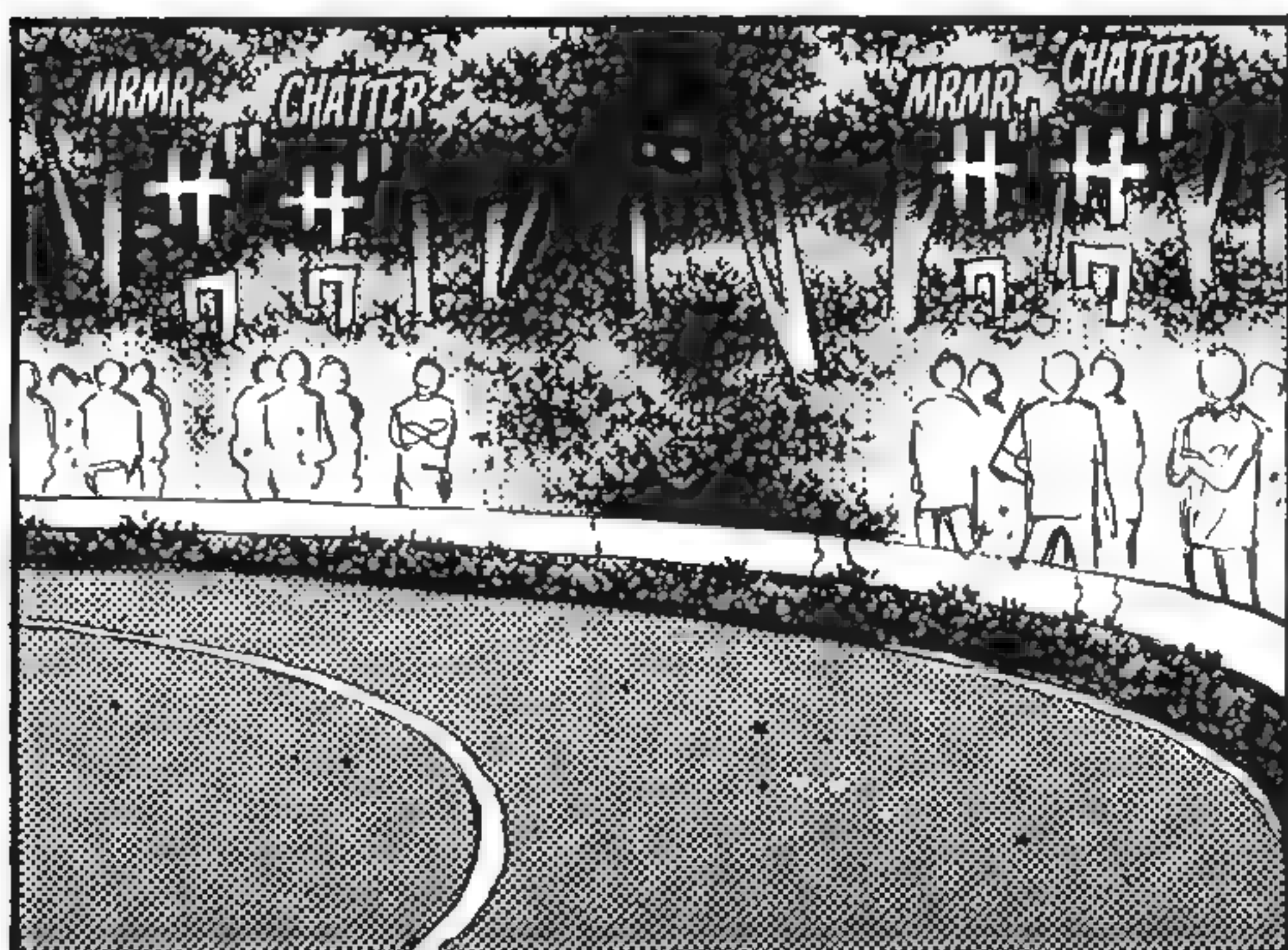
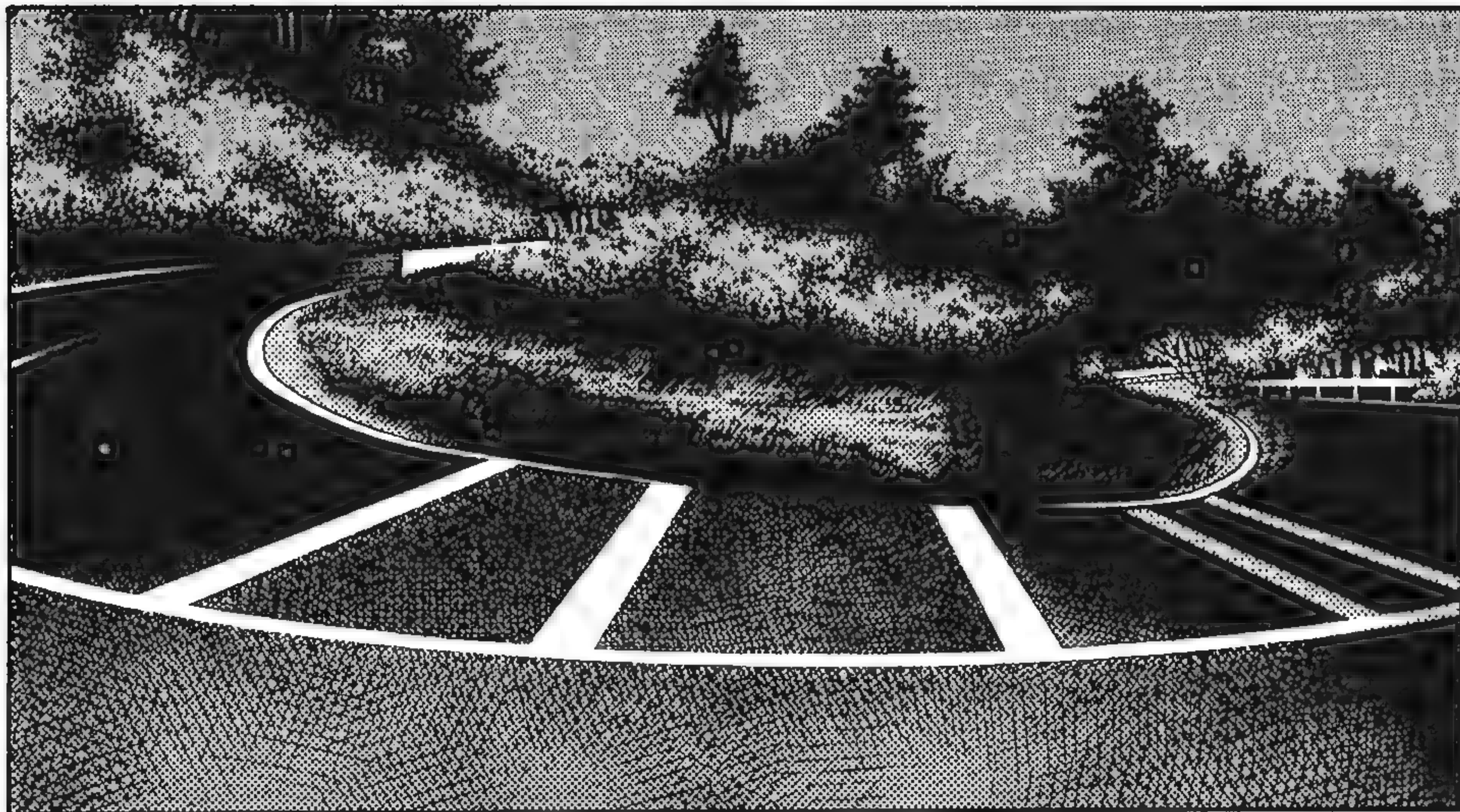
OKAY.  
WE'LL  
WAIT  
WITH  
YOU.



I'M 99%  
SURE IT'S  
A LOST  
CAUSE...

IF MY DAD'S  
OUT DRINKING,  
HE WON'T BE  
HOME TILL  
MORNING.





PLEASE,  
PLEASE  
COME  
BACK!

WHERE  
ARE YOU,  
DAD?

IT'S NO  
USE...

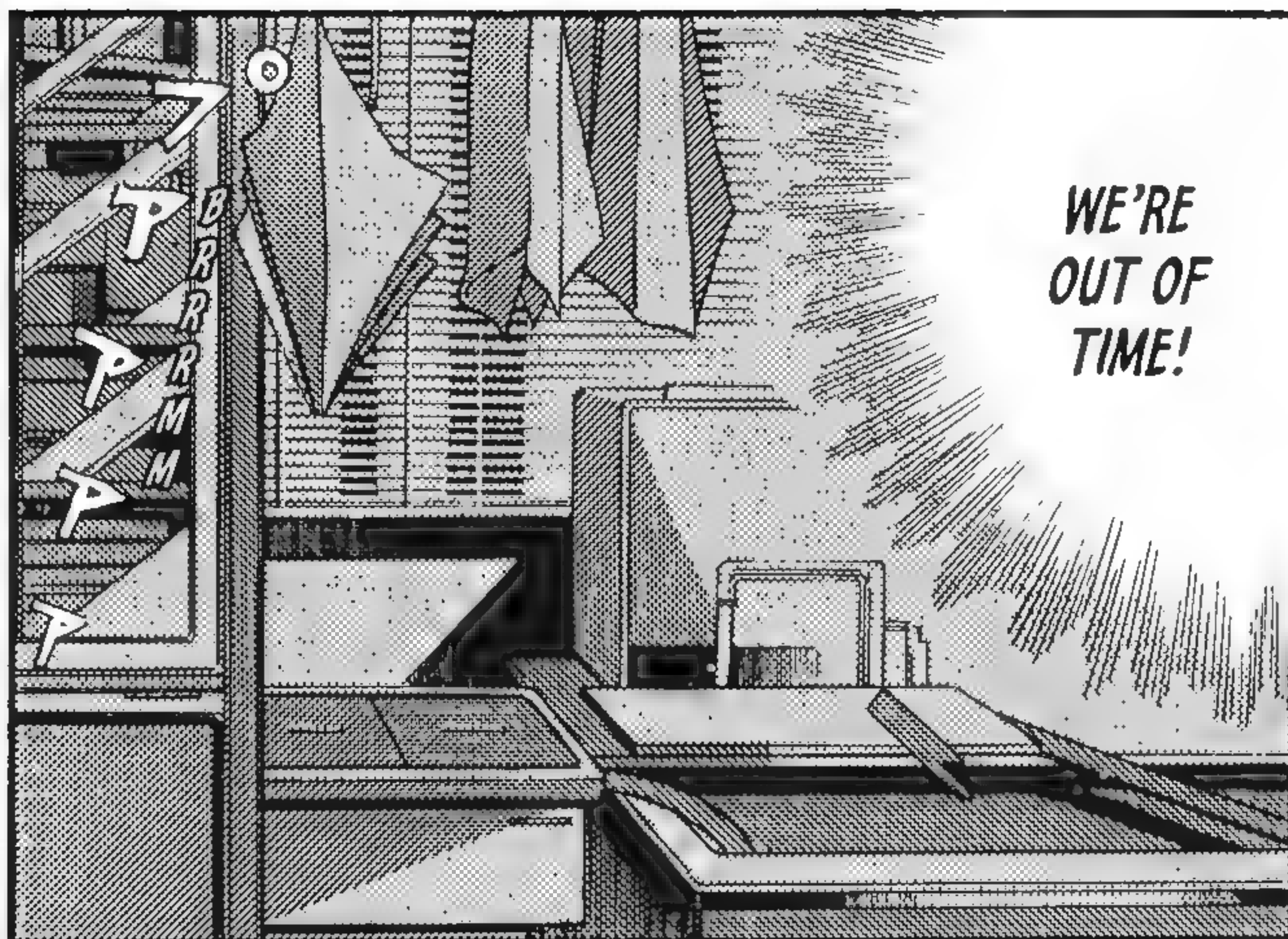


JUST  
PAST  
9:40.

WHAT  
TIME IS  
IT?









**The Unexpected-Success  
Gratitude Bonus Comic  
Taku-chan's Drift Class**

SENSEI!  
TEACH ME  
EVERYTHING  
YOU KNOW!

I CAN'T  
BELIEVE I GET  
TO RIDE IN  
THE EIGHT-SIX  
I'VE ADMIRED  
FOR SO LONG!

BA-DUM  
BA-DUM  
トト  
# #

I'M  
HIS FIRST  
STUDENT!  
WHAT  
A GREAT  
DAY!

WOW!

ONCE  
YOU GET  
BETTER,  
NO MORE  
E-BRAKE.

7P7P  
MRRRAAAT

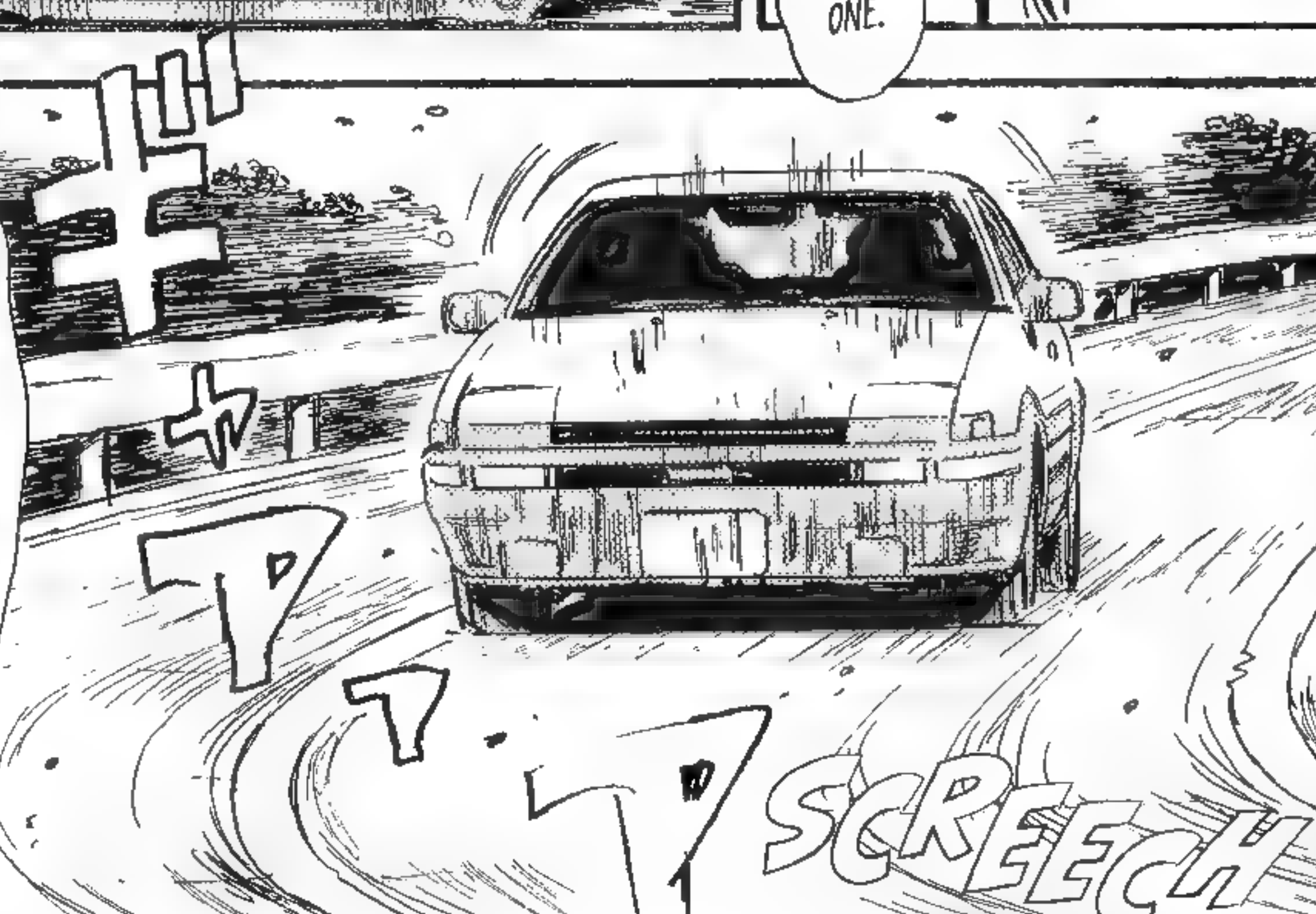
I'LL SHOW  
YOU HOW  
IT'S DONE.  
YOU RIDE  
SHOTGUN  
AND WATCH.

...I  
THOUGHT  
WE COULD  
START  
WITH THE  
MOST BASIC  
TECHNIQUE,  
AN E-BRAKE  
DRIFT.

THE  
SIDE  
ONE.

SINCE  
YOU'RE...  
YOU,  
ITSUKI...

STEP ONE:  
SLOW DOWN  
WITH THE  
BRAKE  
PEDAL.



LEFT-  
HAND  
CORNERS  
ARE EASI-  
EST FOR  
BEGIN-  
NERS.

WE'LL  
START YOU  
OFF ON  
A NICE,  
LOW-SPEED  
HAIRPIN.

YOU  
WANT TO  
PULL THE  
E-BRAKE  
AFTER  
YOU  
START TO  
STEER.

IT'S A  
RHYTHM.

POIK

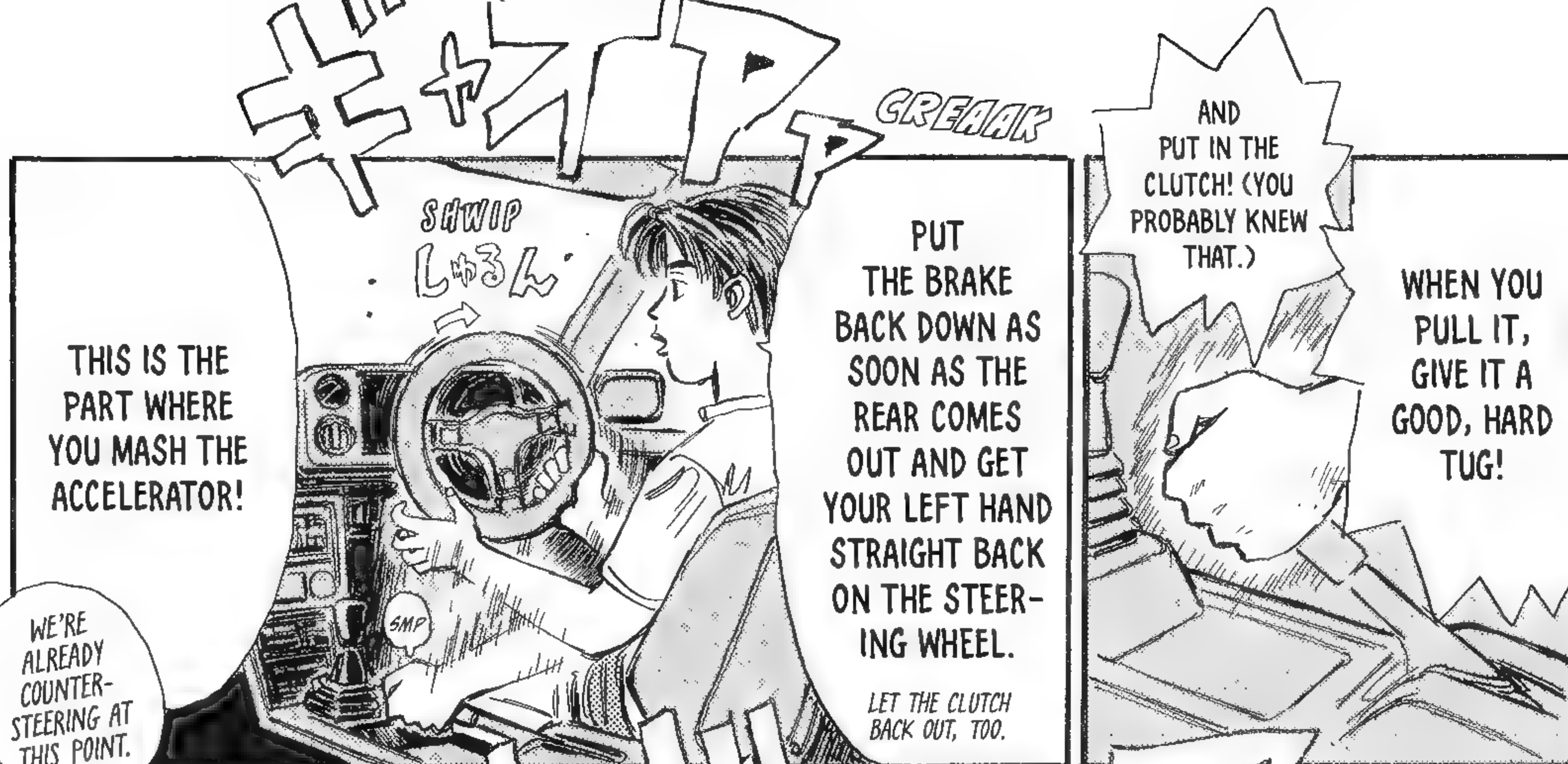
GENTLY TRAIL  
OFF THE BRAKE  
AND USE YOUR  
RIGHT HAND  
TO GIVE THE  
WHEEL ABOUT  
ONE THIRD OF  
A TURN.

YOU  
CAN TURN  
IN A LITTLE  
EARLIER THAN  
FOR NORMAL  
CORNERING.

SLOW IT  
DOWN UNTIL  
YOU CAN  
JUUST FEEL  
YOU'RE  
CARRYING  
SOME  
SPEED.

YOU DON'T  
WANT TO  
CHARGE IN  
TOO FAST  
YOUR FIRST  
TIME.





THIS IS THE PART WHERE YOU MASH THE ACCELERATOR!

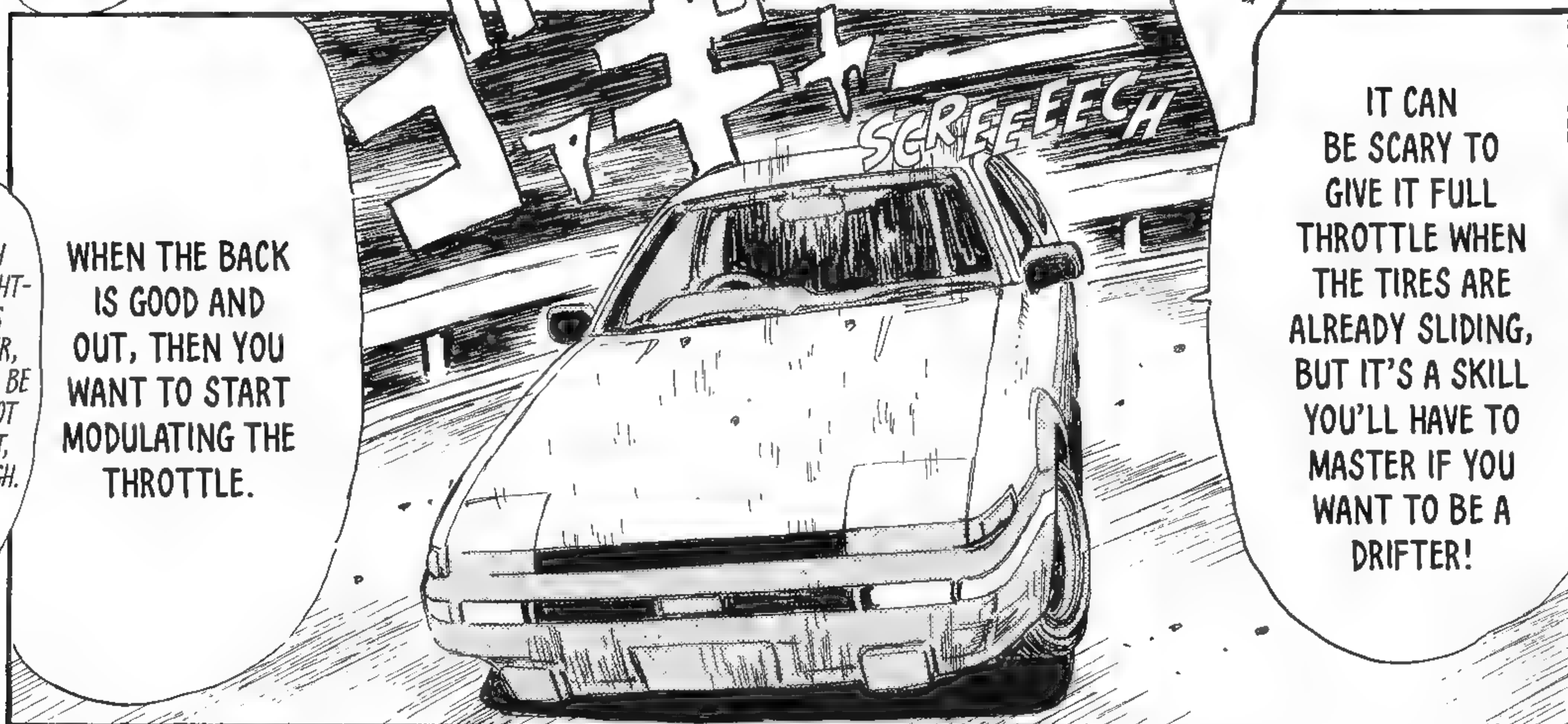
WE'RE ALREADY COUNTER-STEERING AT THIS POINT.

PUT THE BRAKE BACK DOWN AS SOON AS THE REAR COMES OUT AND GET YOUR LEFT HAND STRAIGHT BACK ON THE STEERING WHEEL.

LET THE CLUTCH BACK OUT, TOO.

AND PUT IN THE CLUTCH! (YOU PROBABLY KNEW THAT.)

WHEN YOU PULL IT, GIVE IT A GOOD, HARD TUG!



WITH AN EIGHT-SIX'S POWER, YOU'LL BE AT WOT A LOT, THOUGH.

WHEN THE BACK IS GOOD AND OUT, THEN YOU WANT TO START MODULATING THE THROTTLE.

IT CAN BE SCARY TO GIVE IT FULL THROTTLE WHEN THE TIRES ARE ALREADY SLIDING, BUT IT'S A SKILL YOU'LL HAVE TO MASTER IF YOU WANT TO BE A DRIFTER!

\*WOT: Wide-Open Throttle



READERS, DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME... AT LEAST NOT BEFORE WE GET TO PART TWO, ABOUT HOW TO STOP A DRIFT!

OH, EIGHT-SIX, HOW FAR WILL YOU GO?

ITSUKI! NO SLEEPING IN CLASS!



FOLLOW THE RADIUS OF THE CORNER, EASING UP ON THE FRONTS AS YOU GO... HUH?

SEE? EASY. YOU JUST BALANCE THE FRONT AND BACK.

'Til next time!

Hey! No cliffhangers in the bonus comics!



# INITIAL D Translator's Notes

## Honorifics

Japanese uses a wide range of honorifics, suffixes that are attached to names when addressing or referring to somebody. Most of the honorifics in *Initial D* have been retained to help communicate the flavor of the manga as a story set in Japan. It's important to understand that using an honorific isn't a matter of "being polite" so much as a way of expressing a particular social relationship. Below is a brief guide to some of the most common honorifics.

**-san:** The most common suffix of all, *-san* indicates a baseline relationship between the speaker and the other person. This can be thought of in many cases as a "neutral" honorific, a go-to when there's no reason to use a different one.

**-kun:** A diminutive suffix often used for boys or young men (e.g., Takumi-kun). In some cases, however, *-kun* can also be used for young women.

**-chan:** Similar to *-kun*, but used mostly for girls and young women. Can be insulting if used carelessly. (It is, after all, a diminutive.)

**-sama:** The most respectful honorific you'll encounter in daily life, *-sama* is heard most frequently in Japan today from clerks or other service people addressing customers. (Or, if you live in a manga, maybe from star-struck young women admiring some street racers!)

**(no honorific):** Using no honorific at all is also a meaningful choice! In the wrong circumstances, addressing someone without an honorific can be quite rude, because it tends to imply either that you're very close to the person or highly socially superior to them, or possibly both. It's interesting to notice who refers to Takumi without an honorific. Characters who do this include Bunta (it's appropriate rather than insulting in this case because, well, Bunta's his dad), Itsuki (his best friend), and Iketani (who, as an upperclassman, is entitled to address junior students without an honorific). You might also notice that Takumi refers to Natsuki as "Mogi" without an honorific. At the time this story was written (and to a certain extent still today), it was acceptable for a man to address a woman his age without an honorific because men were considered higher on the social scale than women. Notice that even here, however, Takumi addresses Natsuki with her surname and not as "Natsuki." To jump right to using her given name, especially without an honorific, would be going too far.



### ***Gunma Prefecture, page 5***

The prefecture of Gunma is located a bit less than 90 miles northwest of Tokyo. Mount Akina is based on a real mountain in Gunma, and its depiction in *Initial D* is modeled on the actual location, although some of the fine details differ.

### ***Silvia, page 10***

The Nissan Silvia was a small sports car first produced in the '60s, then revived in the '70s, after which it lasted as long as the early 2000s in Japan. The S13 and S14 would have been the latest models as of the writing of this story. (These cars were sold in the US market under names like 200SX and 240SX.)

### ***Eight-Six, page 10***

Frequently referred to by Japanese aficionados as the *hachi roku* (Japanese for "eight" and "six"), this refers to the Toyota AE86 model line, which principally included the Sprinter Trueno and the Corolla Levin. (These cars are distinguished primarily by their headlights; the Trueno has pop-ups while the Levin's are built in.) These were the last Corollas to feature rear-wheel drive (that is, to boast the FR drivetrain arrangement Itsuki and most drifters favor), and this combined with its relatively modest price made it a popular drift car. Then *Initial D* came along and enshrined the car's place in the imaginations of drifters all over the world (and drove up the price of used examples!).

### ***FR, page 10***

This is short for "front engine, rear wheel drive." Broadly speaking, a car's engine can be located in the front, middle, or back of the vehicle, while the engine may drive (that is, be connected to) the front wheels, rear wheels, or all four wheels (four-wheel drive or 4WD). For a number of reasons too complicated to get into here, FR is generally considered an ideal setup for a drift car.

### ***Inspection, page 11***

Itsuki says this car is *ken nashi*, or "without *shaken*." *Shaken* is short for *jidousha kensa touroku seido*, literally meaning "car inspection registration system" and sometimes known as the Japanese Compulsory Insurance (JCI) inspection. This is a process that must be completed every two years and involves an extensive inspection of a vehicle to show that it has been properly maintained and not illegally modified. In addition to the inspection itself, which is often performed by an authorized service center for a fee, the vehicle owner must purchase compulsory liability insurance and pay a vehicle weight tax. Because of all this, whether or not a used vehicle has an up-to-date *shaken* certification can influence the price by hundreds of dollars. The car Itsuki is looking at will need an inspection soon, meaning it's not as good a deal as it first appears.

### ***Second year, page 14***

The Japanese school system consists of six years of elementary school, three years of middle school, and three years of high school, so the second year of high school would correspond to eleventh grade in the United States. Only elementary and middle school are compulsory, but most Japanese students attend high school, and many go on to attend college (which is typically four years).

### ***The mountains, page 17***

Here, Itsuki says a car has to be fun when you go to the *touge* (pronounced "toe-geh"). This word literally means "a mountain pass," but came to refer to the twisting roads that snake along the sides of many of Japan's mountains, long among the favorite haunts of Japan's street drifters. The word *touge* even has some currency in English among drifting enthusiasts.

### ***Sega Rally, page 19***

*Sega Rally* was a series of arcade games, the first of which, *Sega Rally Championship*, was released in 1994. The arcade cabinets featured full car seats, steering wheels, and pedals and allowed players



to race against each other. The series went through several iterations both in arcades and on home consoles through about 2011, but only the original would have been released at the time this manga was published. Similarly, *Initial D* arcade cabinets are now common around the world.

### ***Hairpin*, page 36**

A hairpin turn is one that covers 180°, so it sends the car back in the direction it was originally traveling. Hairpins are common on hills, as they allow a road to ascend at a gentler gradient than would be possible if it climbed straight up.

### ***FC*, page 59**

Ryosuke and Keisuke drive Mazda RX-7s. We're told that Ryosuke drives an "FC3S" while Keisuke drives an "FD3S." FC and FD refer to different generations of the car. The FC is the second generation (produced between 1985 and 1992), while the FD is the third generation (1992-2002). FC3S/FD3S are the full chassis codes. All RX-7s were powered by rotary engines (sometimes called Wankel engines, after their designer, Felix Wankel), which are internal combustion engines that use a spinning rotor rather than pistons to generate power. Although these engines have several advantages in comparison to traditional piston-powered engines, including their smaller size and relative simplicity, they also have a number of drawbacks. Mazda forged ahead with its Wankel program until about 2012, when the RX-8, the successor car to the RX-7, ended its run. In the context of a manga about racing, it might be worth pointing out that in 1991, the Mazda 787B won the 24 Hours of Le Mans powered by a rotary engine.

### ***180... MR2*, page 63**

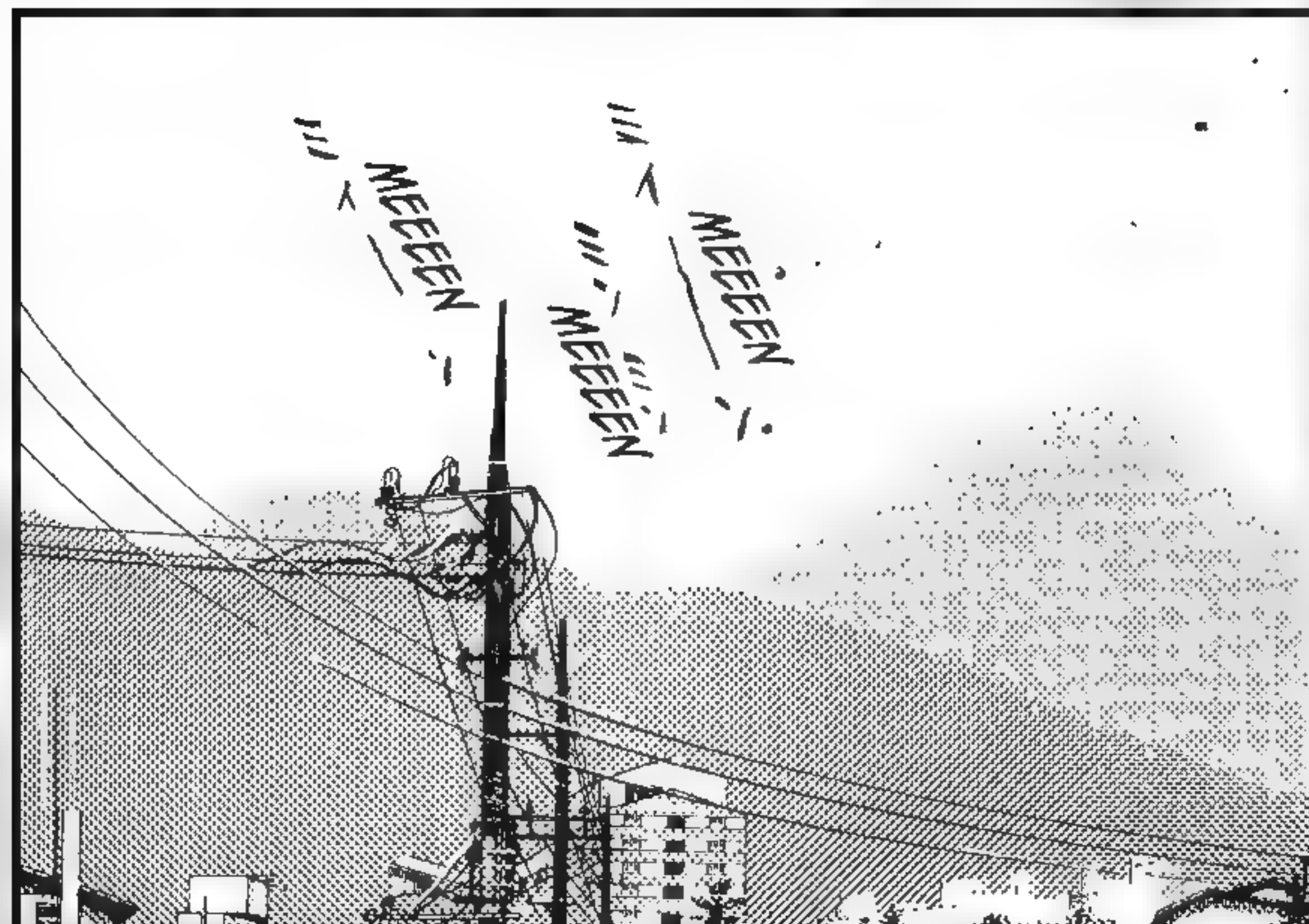
That is a Nissan 180SX or a Toyota MR2, both small sports cars.

### ***Inertia drift*, page 72**

Called a *kansei* (inertia) drift in Japanese, this is a drift initiation technique that involves entering a corner faster than the car can actually take. The driver then gets off the gas, making the rear of the car light enough to break traction as they turn in ("lift-off oversteer"). In this case, the Eight-Six appears to have combined the inertia drift with a flick or feint. In Japanese, the inertia drift is sometimes referred to as the "ultimate drift" (*kyuukyoku no dorifuto*), hence the title of this chapter!

### ***Feint*, page 74**

In this maneuver, the driver steers in the opposite direction of a corner before turning in, as we can see the Eight-Six do in the last panel on page 70. The driver then turns toward the corner, using the momentum created by the "flick" to swing the back of the car around the turn. Japanese drifters originally adopted this technique from rally racing, where it's known as the "Scandinavian flick."



### ***MEEN MEEN*, page 75**

This is the sound of *Hyalessa maculaticollis*, known in Japan as the *minminzemi* ("min-min cicada") because of the noise it makes. These insects can be heard almost constantly during the summer months in Japan, so including this sound effect is strongly evocative of a certain time of year.

### ***Nica Color*, page 76**

The sign is only partially visible, but it seems to reference Konica, a Japanese manufacturer of films and cameras. They merged with Minolta in 2003 to form Konica Minolta.



### ***Yu-no-hana manju*, page 78**

Literally meaning “Flower of the Bath manju,” these treats were created by the confectioner Shogetsudo in honor of the Ikaho Onsen baths in Gunma. (*Manju* are buns typically stuffed with a sweet filling like red bean paste.)

### ***GT-Apex*, page 84**

GT-Apex was the highest trim level offered for the AE86.

### ***Peak*y**, page 95

In automobile terms, “peaky” most often refers to engine behavior, describing an engine that produces its optimum power or torque output only under specific circumstances, such as a narrow band of the RPM range. Given how high the Wankel engine in the RX-7 has to rev to achieve optimum power output, it’s possible that’s what this line is referring to. The word can, however, also refer to other elements of a car’s behavior that only work best in an ideal situation, so we can’t be completely certain what this onlooker has in mind.

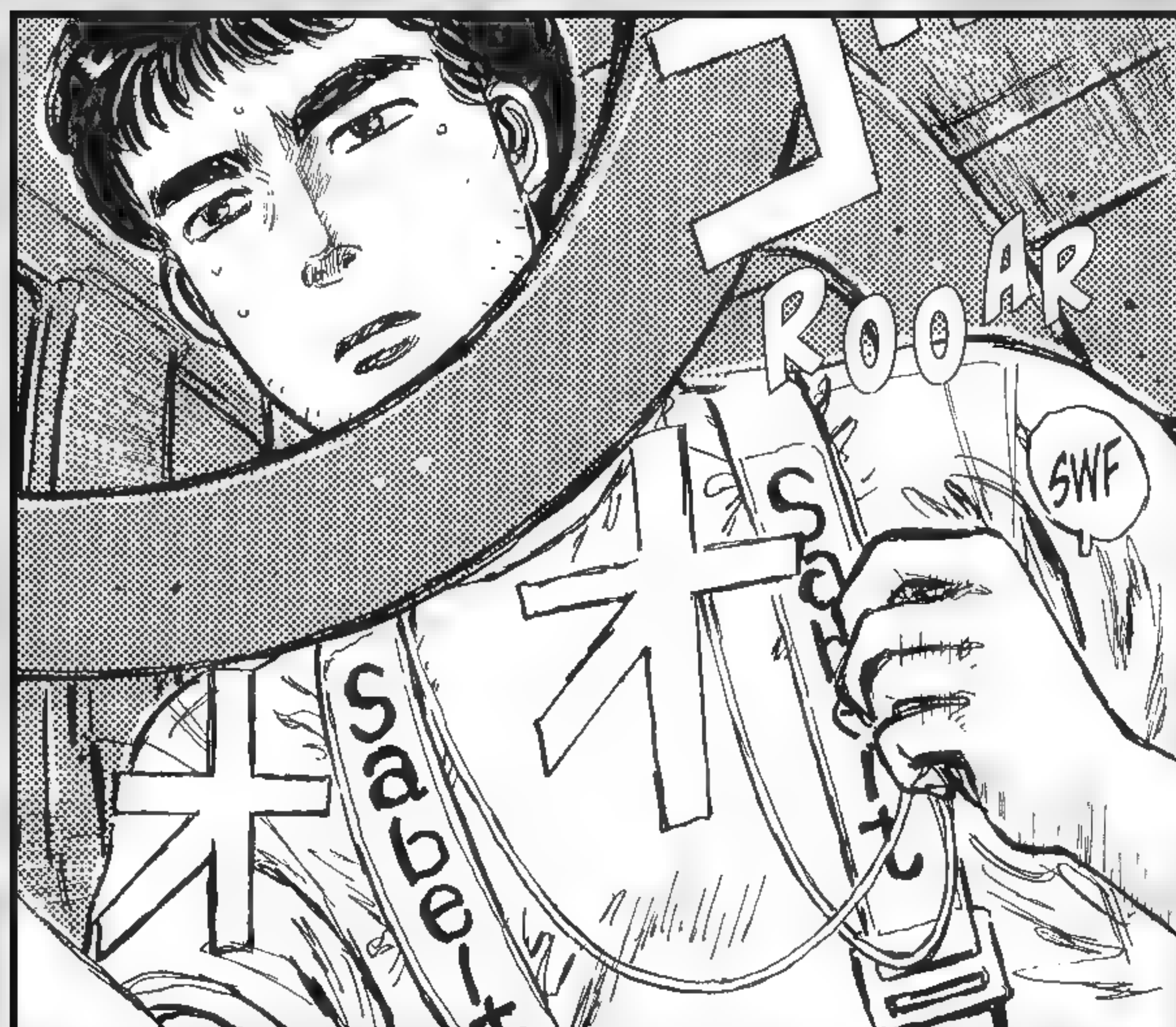
### ***Understeer & oversteer***, page 100

The friction between a car’s tires and the road surface is what allows a car to move along the road. This friction is called grip, and at any given time it can be used for accelerating, braking, or turning. When the tires exceed the available grip (that is, when a driver tries to go faster or turn harder than the friction between the tires and the road can sustain), the tires begin to slide across the road surface rather than gripping the pavement. If this happens at the front, it’s called understeer, because the typical result is that the car doesn’t turn as far as you would expect from the amount of steering input (it literally “under steers”). Instead, it continues more or less in the direction it was already going, which is likely to mean off the road (or into the guard rail). If the rear tires lose grip instead, the car “oversteers,” turning more than would be expected from the given steering input. If the driver doesn’t react to control the oversteer (called countersteering), the result is likely to be the car spinning. In many cases, drifting is the art of carefully controlling oversteer to maintain a slide without spinning out.

### ***Four-Wheel Drift***, page 101

In a four-wheel drift, both the front and rear tires are just over the limit of traction and the car neither understeers nor oversteers but is in a state of “neutral steer.” This is a coveted technique not only in drifting, but in road racing (that is, conventional motor racing), as it’s understood to be the fastest way

through a corner. It’s much harder to spot in road racing, however, because drivers taking a conventional line through a corner generally don’t get the back of the car out nearly as far as a drifter.



### ***Sabelt***, page 110

Sabelt is a real-world maker of harnesses and safety equipment, still active today. You might notice that Iketani has a belt over each shoulder. Racing and performance cars are commonly equipped with more elaborate seatbelt systems than a typical road car. Road cars usually have a three-point belt—that is, it’s anchored at three points on the car. Typically, two of these are to either side of the driver’s waist (the lap belt), and one is near their shoulder



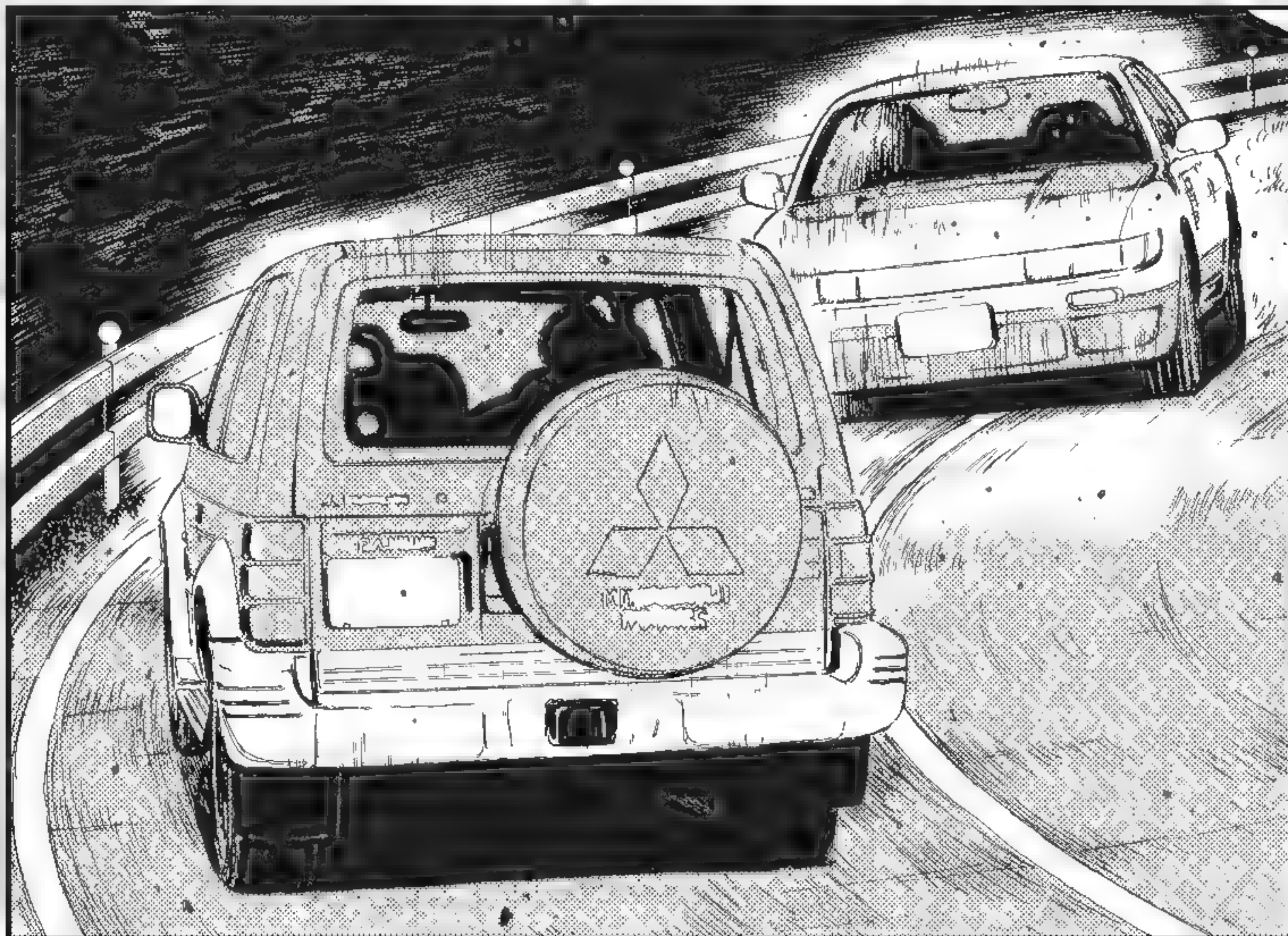
(the sash belt), forming a "Y." Many race cars have a five- or six-point harness, which features two belts on the shoulders, two on the lap, and one or two belts between the legs. (This prevents the driver from "submarining," or sliding downward out of their own seatbelt in a crash.) Harness systems and additional belts provide enhanced safety, as well as hold the driver in place, allowing them to be more sensitive to the car's movements and preventing them from being thrown around during hard cornering. (Iketani's system is later identified as a four-point harness, which doesn't feature crotch straps.)

### ***Cubbies*, page 119**

It's considered rude to wear outdoor footwear inside schools, homes, and some other buildings in Japan. Instead, at school, each student has a pair of slippers for indoor use (*uwabaki*, lit. "overwear"). They're assigned a cubby like the ones on this page, where they put their outdoor shoes when they arrive in the morning and trade them for their slippers. (Every Japanese school also has a rack of slippers by the door for visitors' use.)

### ***Deep-fried tofu*, page 129**

Iketani orders *atsu-age*, a thick slice of fried tofu. It can be distinguished from *abura-age*, which is a thin slice of fried tofu sometimes seen in miso soup.



### ***Oncoming vehicle*, page 145**

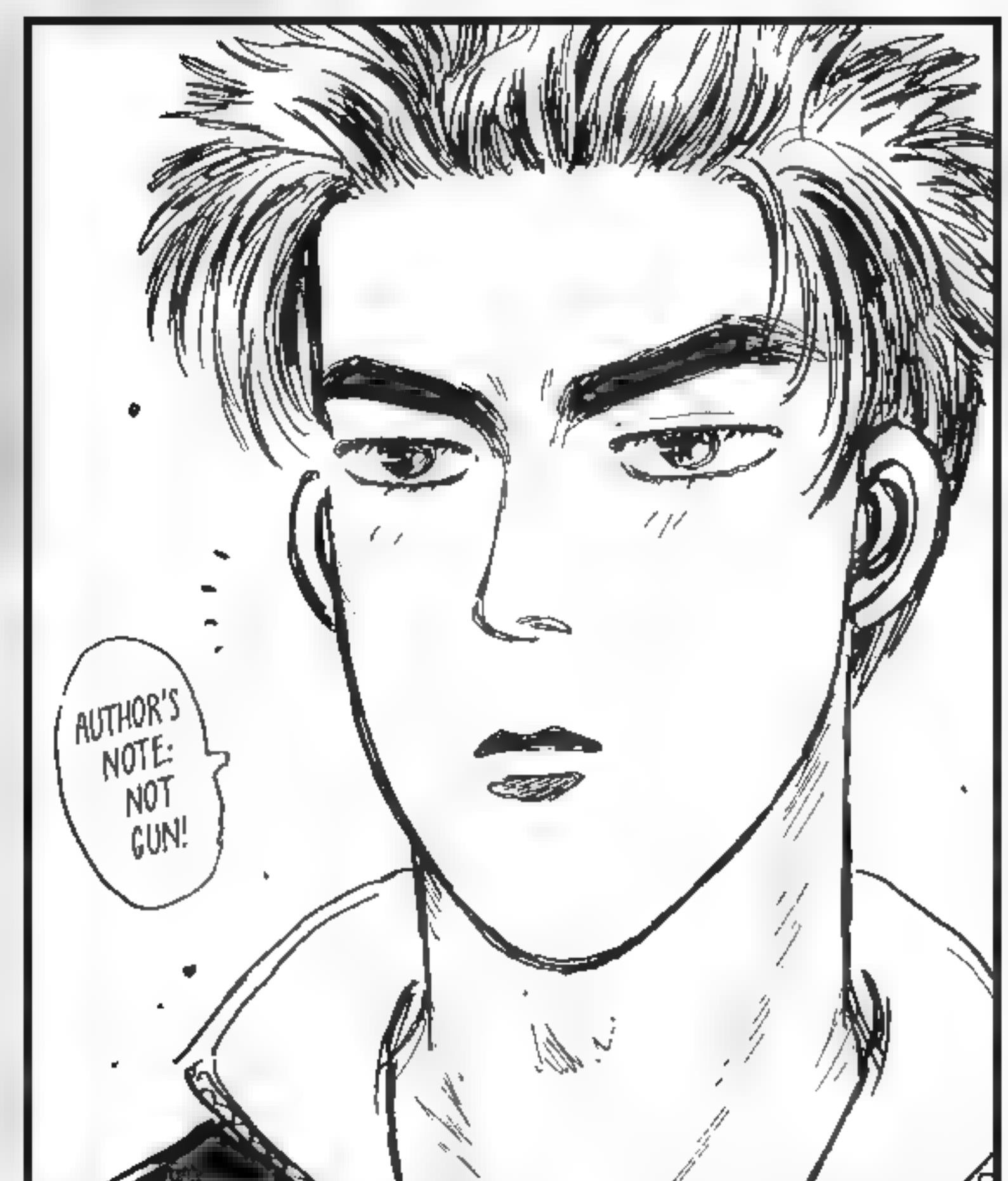
The oncoming vehicle Iketani encounters appears to be a second-generation Mitsubishi Pajero.

### ***Jusco*, page 161**

Jusco is a department store chain in Japan.

### ***Not Gun*, page 162**

This bubble isn't Keisuke's dialogue but a side comment from the author. Keisuke bears a certain resemblance to Gun, the main character of Shuichi Shigeno's earlier series *Bari-Bari Densetsu*, and the author is just saving us from getting confused! *Bari-Bari Densetsu* is a motorbike racing-themed manga series. No motorbikes here (except for Itsuki's scooter if you can count that)!





### ***The Human Chassis Dyno,* page 163**

A chassis dyno (dynamometer) uses a mechanical rolling road to test vehicle setup and other qualities. There are also engine dynos that can measure engine output, etc.

### ***Michael Schumacher,* page 165**

Michael Schumacher was a Formula One driver from 1991 to 2006, and again from 2010 until 2012. He was so dominant at the height of his career that his name became synonymous with sheer speed. Although Schumacher is perhaps most famous for winning the F1 World Championship with Ferrari in five successive seasons (2000 to 2004), when this book was first published, he was still at the beginning of his career, with the Benetton team, where he won the championship in 1994 and again in 1995.

### ***Saturday class,* page 166**

In this scene, Takumi and Itsuki are at school even though it's Saturday. Saturday morning classes were standard at Japanese schools until relatively recently. They're no longer universal, although private schools may require them, and even students who don't have class may go to school for club or other extracurricular activities.

### ***Takahashi Clinic,* page 181**

Takasaki is a real city in Gunma, within sight of Mount Akagi and several other peaks. There's more than one doctor's office in Takasaki whose name involves the words "Takahashi" and "Clinic," but hey, Takahashi is a common name, and as the author says, this is all made up, anyway...

### ***Wastegate,* page 182**

Many drift cars are turbocharged, meaning they have a snail-shaped device called a turbocharger (or sometimes two) attached to the engine. Normally, the gases produced by an engine's combustion cycle are simply sent out the exhaust pipe. Turbochargers instead use the exhaust gases to spin a turbine that creates extra power. However, even a turbocharger may not need all the exhaust gases generated by the engine to maintain the desired level of "boost" (effectively, extra power). In that case, a valve called a wastegate opens to allow excess gases to escape, creating a distinctive chittering noise. If the car is equipped with a blowoff valve, there may be a whoosh instead.

### ***Clipping point,* page 192**

When driving through a turn, a race driver will usually pick a line (that is, a path) that goes from the outside edge of the track, just brushes a point on the inside of the turn, and then returns to the outside edge. That point in the middle, where the car is closest to the inside of the track, is known as the apex among road racers, but drifters tend to favor the term clipping point. Functionally, the two are very similar, but sometimes in sanctioned drifting events, officials will choose a clipping point that the competitors have to try to brush, rather than allowing the drivers to choose their own apexes.

### ***E-brake,* page 192**

Because the emergency brake or side brake is connected directly, and only, to the rear wheels, it's an easy way to break the back tires loose and initiate a drift. By the same token, however, some drifters look down on it as inelegant or amateurish, hence presumably why the Red Suns don't allow it. (The e-brake is sometimes used to begin or control more advanced drifting techniques, so it's possible the Red Suns' ban is only on heavy-handed e-brake drift starts.) The second character in this panel wonders if Keisuke may be doing a "braking drift"—that is, using the brake pedal to transfer the car's weight forward, thereby loosening the rear wheels in order to help initiate a drift.

### ***Choku-dori,* page 195**

Literally meaning "straight (line) drift," *choku-dori* refers to initiating a drift early, getting the car sideways on the straight even before the turn-in point of the corner. It's considered an advanced technique



because the driver must maintain enough steering angle to keep the car sliding sideways when not actually going around a turn, not to mention set themselves up for the actual turn-in point of the upcoming corner.

### ***RE 13BT***, page 236

This is an engine designation. The 13B was Mazda's primary rotary engine (RE) after the mid-1970s; the T indicates that it's turbocharged. The components listed are all additional pieces or modifications that would help increase engine power or make the car more drivable. (The ECU, or Engine Control Unit, is the computer that controls aspects of engine performance like fuel injection and ignition timing.) PS refers, essentially, to metric horsepower (it's from the German word *Pferdstarke* or "horse strength").

### ***Close-ratio transmission***, page 252

The transmission contains the gears that transmit power and torque from the engine to the wheels. A close-ratio transmission is one where the gear ratios are closer to each other (i.e., smaller) than in an ordinary transmission, but exactly what qualifies as close-ratio varies from manufacturer to manufacturer. The closer ratio allows a driver to better stay in the engine's "power band," the part of the rev range where the car can achieve maximum acceleration.

### ***Rally-style***, page 252

In rally racing, instead of racing around permanent racetracks, drivers compete by completing "stages," sections of road out in the real world. Rally racing was an important early influence on drifting—because so many rally stages take place on "loose" surfaces like gravel, dirt, and snow, drivers developed techniques like the Scandinavian flick (very similar to the "feint" found in drifting) that allowed them to get around corners as fast as possible without losing momentum. These were the same techniques that the first Japanese drifters adopted and developed into drifting as it's known today.

### ***Heel-toe shifting***, page 261

The first panel on this page provides a lovely illustration of what's called heel-toe shifting because, as you can see, it involves the use of the heel and the toe to actuate two pedals simultaneously. When



shifting down with a manual transmission, it's necessary to "blip" the throttle by giving the gas pedal a quick press before letting out the clutch in the lower gear. When the driver releases the throttle in order to press the brake, the engine revs start to drop, and they need to be brought back up again to match the speed of the wheels before letting the clutch out; otherwise, there will be additional stress on the engine when the two are reconnected (and the engine may also overpower the rear wheels, breaking them loose). The "blip" compensates for this, but because the driver is already using one foot to hold in the clutch, they must use the other to hit the throttle while still braking. This is achieved by using the ball of the foot to press the brake and the heel (or side) to blip the throttle, hence the expression "heel-toe." (Some, although not all, modern cars with sequential gearboxes and even some sticks are capable of automatic rev-matching, where the onboard computer matches revs when the driver downshifts, so heel-and-toe shifting is often no longer strictly necessary.)

### ***Secondary turbo***, page 267

This is the term for the second turbine in a sequential turbocharger system. In a car with twin turbos, one might be set to deliver power at lower revs, the other (the second one, which would kick in later) at higher revs, thereby evening out power delivery throughout the full range. If Keisuke's second turbo went out, it would presumably cost him power at higher speeds, meaning he couldn't accelerate as fast or reach speeds as high as he expected.



### ***Braking drift*, page 269**

This is a drift initiation technique that involves braking hard to lighten the rear of the car. (Keep in mind that the car's weight isn't static; it moves around under acceleration, braking, and cornering—and controlling this weight transfer is central to successful drifting, as it is to all motorsports.) This causes the rear tires to have less traction, so they can be easily broken loose into a drift.

### ***Sticker*, page 282**

Drift teams in Japan often have custom-made stickers (*sutekkaa*) with the team name or logo. While members of the team naturally have these on their cars, stickers may also be given to other teams or drivers who are friends with the team or have competed against or drifted with them. Drifters may collect these stickers, earning the most respect for having the stickers of respected teams, or teams far away from the drifter's home area.

### ***Niigata*, page 292**

Niigata is the prefecture directly north of Gunma. Kashiwazaki is on the northmost coast, probably a two- or three-hour drive from where Takumi lives.

### ***Eight-tenths*, page 307**

Race drivers often describe driving intensity in terms of "tenths," meaning how hard you're pushing yourself and your car. To drive "ten-tenths" is to be on the ragged edge of control; eight-tenths would be pushing hard but with some margin.

### ***We've gotta have you*, page 318**

The hand-by-face body language is a common gesture of imploring or supplication.



### ***Newtype*, page 324**

This term originates with the anime *Mobile Suit Gundam* (1979). There, it referred to an evolved form of human being that emerged when humanity began to migrate into space, people with perceptions, reactions, and abilities far greater than their Earth-bound counterparts. *Gundam* was so popular and influential that the word became widely recognized and is used with a wink throughout Japanese pop culture to this day.



### ***The Kan'etsu*, page 349**

That is, the Kan'etsu Expressway, an expressway running between northern Tokyo and Niigata.

### ***ATTESA E-TS*, page 352**

An electronic traction system developed by Nissan. The acronym is short for Advanced Total Traction Engineering System for All-Terrain.

### ***The First Drifting*, page 354**

Iketani says he's going to practice his drifting with *shoshin*, "beginner's mind." This is a familiar term in the martial arts and the Zen Buddhist tradition referring to a practitioner's ability and willingness to approach their discipline with a beginner's open-minded wonder even when they become very experienced.

### ***Kei-truck*, page 364**

Literally "light truck," this refers to a class of very small trucks. Like their counterparts kei-cars, they're designed to be extremely compact and use small-displacement engines, making them easier to use and store in space-starved Japanese cities and less expensive come *shaken* time.

### ***Gripping*, page 429**

The traditional style of driving or racing that seeks to maximize the usage of tire grip. (Drifting involves deliberately putting the rear wheels over their limit of traction—that is, breaking them loose—whereas conventional performance driving seeks to use every bit of available traction without, as a rule, going over the limit.)

### ***Sport compact*, page 433**

The Japanese uses the term *tenroku*, meaning "point six" and referring to the Eight-Six's 1.6 liter engine. Sport compacts are almost inevitably the kind of car this engine was found in.

### ***On throttle*, page 445**

Race drivers often talk about "the throttle" instead of "the gas." That's because the "gas pedal" doesn't directly add more fuel—pressing it opens a valve (bear in mind that the word "throttle" literally means "to choke") that allows more air into the engine. This in turn allows more fuel to be burned and more power to be produced. (The gas or throttle pedal is also sometimes simply called the accelerator—because that's what it makes you do!)





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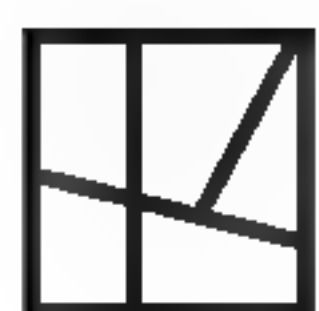
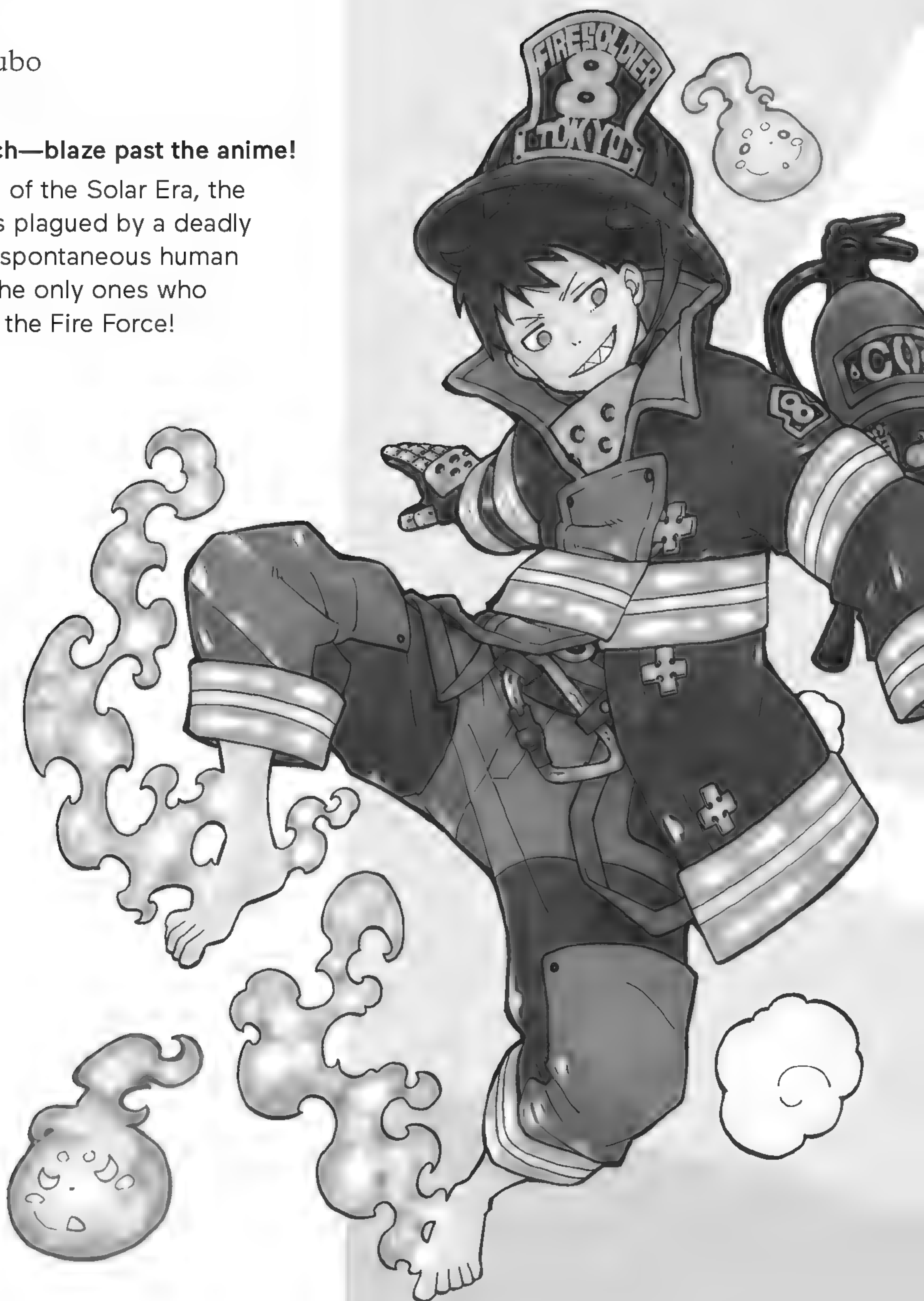
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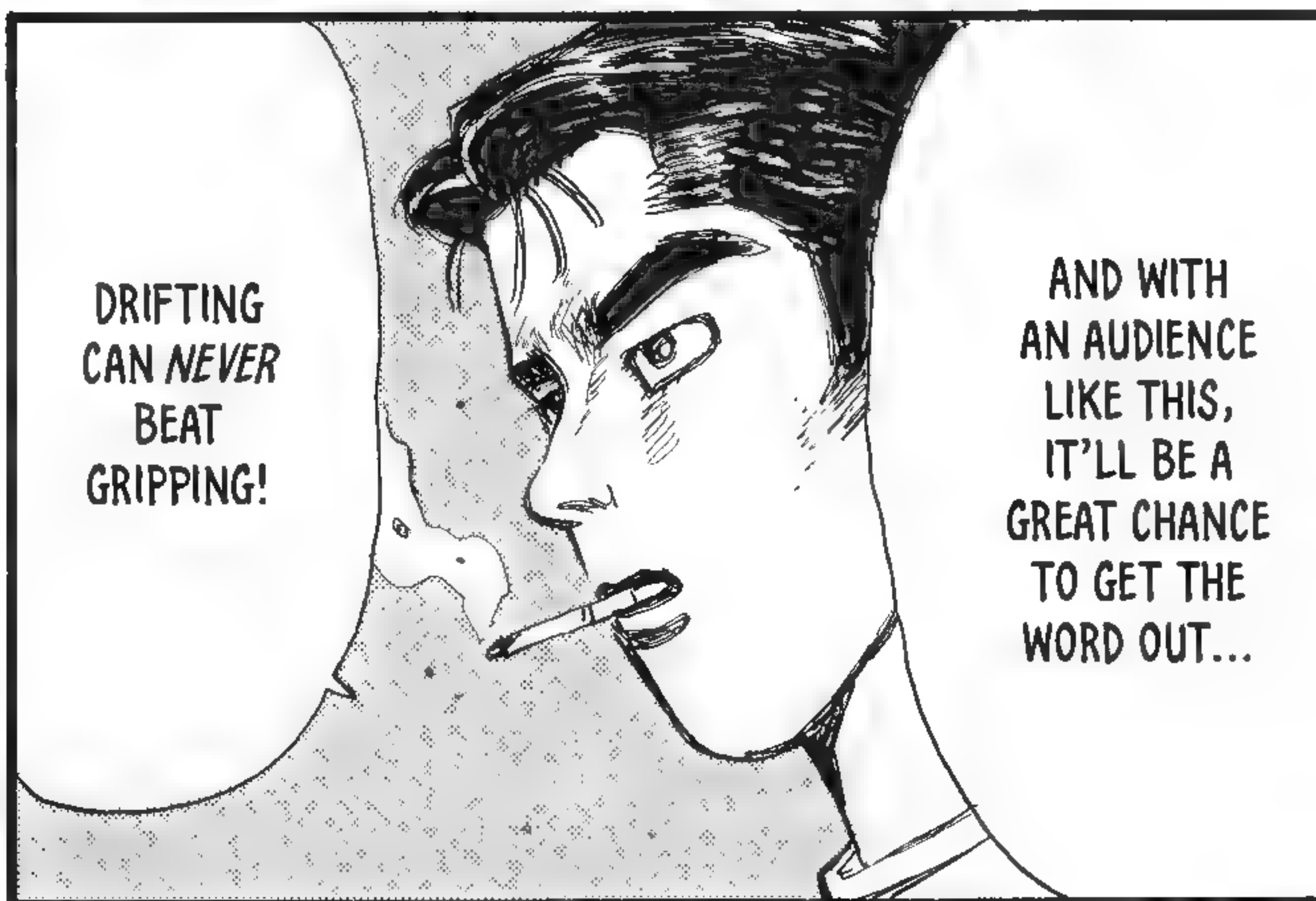
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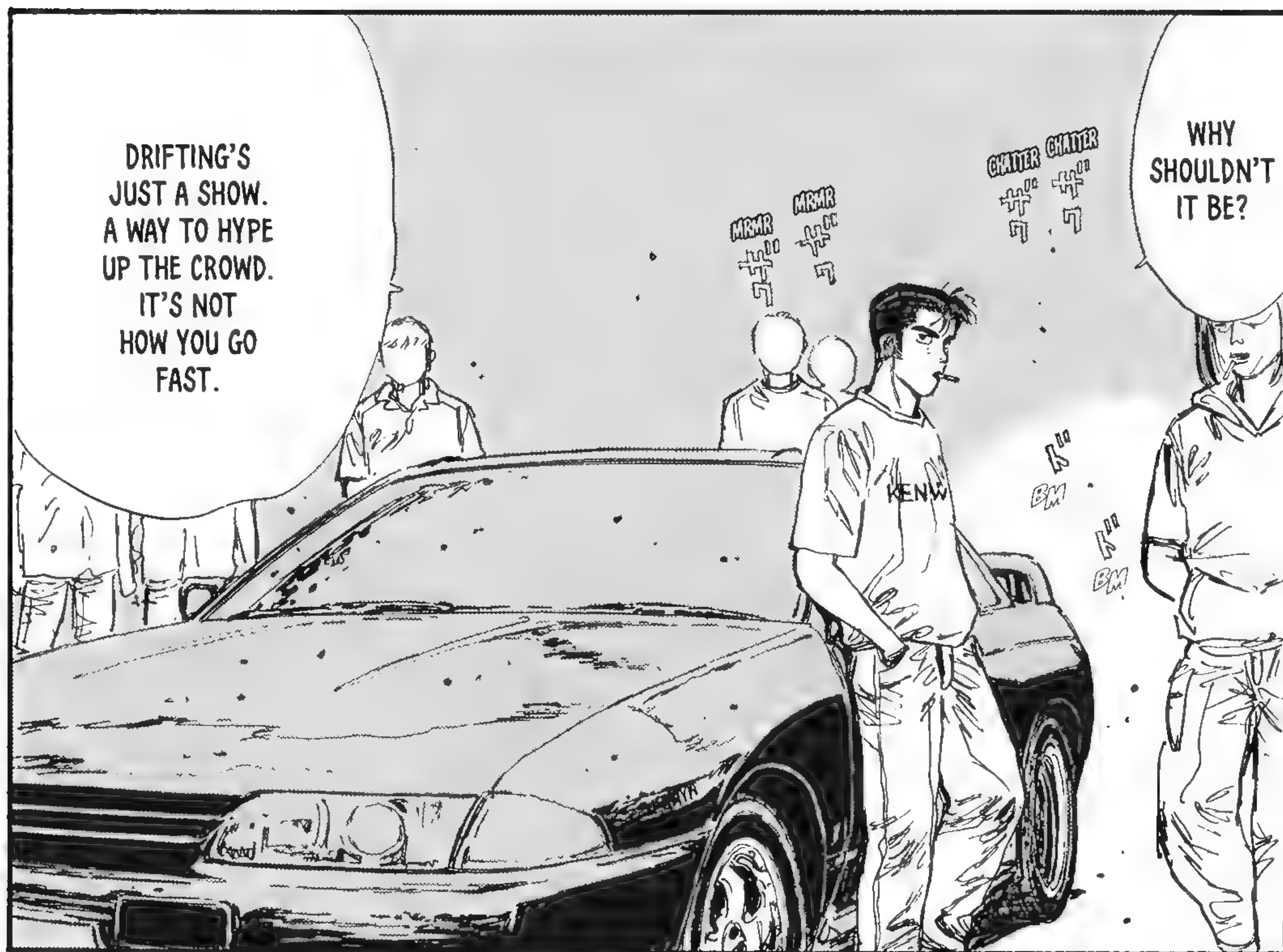












DRIFTING'S  
JUST A SHOW.  
A WAY TO HYPE  
UP THE CROWD.  
IT'S NOT  
HOW YOU GO  
FAST.

WHY  
SHOULDN'T  
IT BE?



WHEN  
YOU OUTGROW  
DRIFTING AND  
MOVE ON TO  
GRIP, THAT'S  
WHEN YOU  
GET REALLY  
FAST!

I USED TO  
DRIFT MYSELF  
WHEN I WAS  
RUNNING  
MY S13, SO I  
KNOW WHAT  
I'M TALKING  
ABOUT.



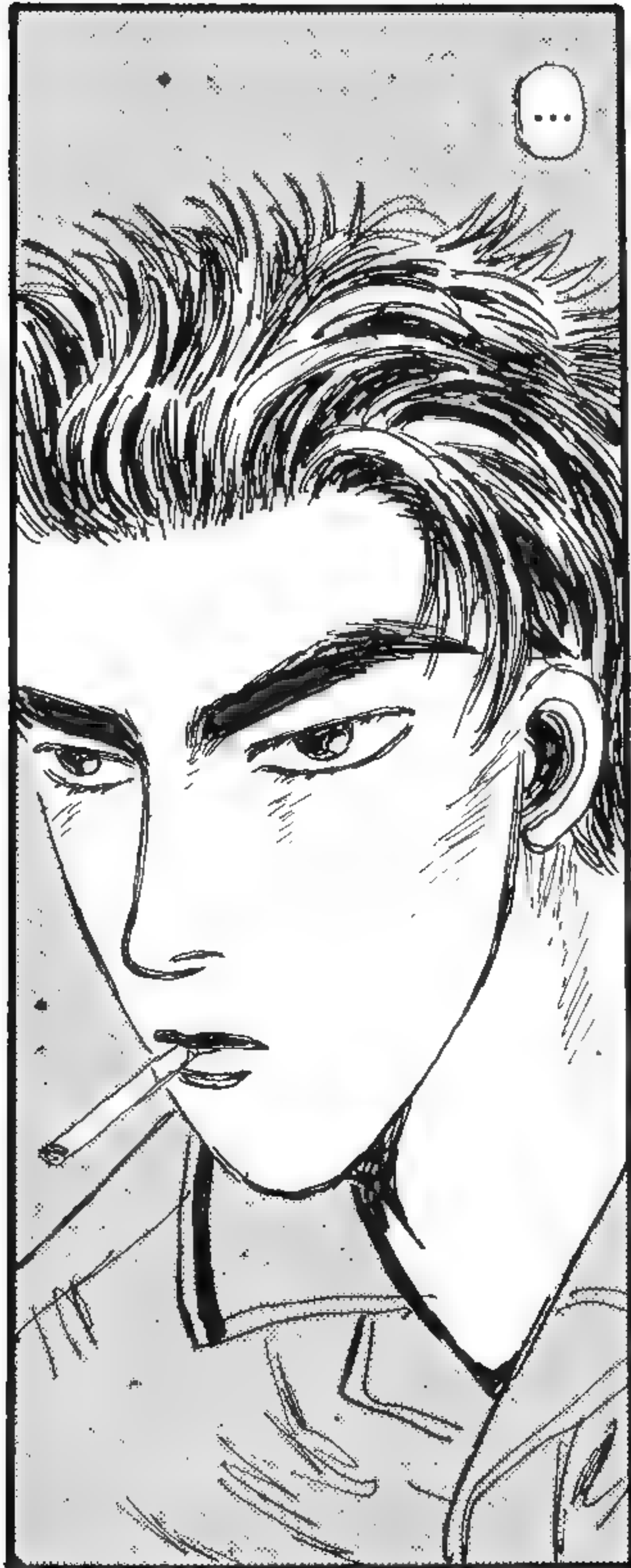
PTOO!



EVERYONE  
AND HIS  
BROTHER IS  
LOSING THEIR  
MINDS FOR  
DRIFTING.  
I'M SICK  
OF IT.

AND IF  
YOU'RE NOT  
TRYING TO  
BE FAST,  
WHAT KIND  
OF RACER  
ARE YOU?





THE DAYS  
OF FR DRIFTING  
ARE NUMBERED,  
AND I'M GONNA  
PULL DOWN THE  
CURTAIN!

BRING  
IT ON,  
EIGHT-  
SIX...



HE SAID  
HIMSELF  
HE WASN'T  
INTERESTED.

I WONDER IF  
HE'S COMING  
AT ALL.



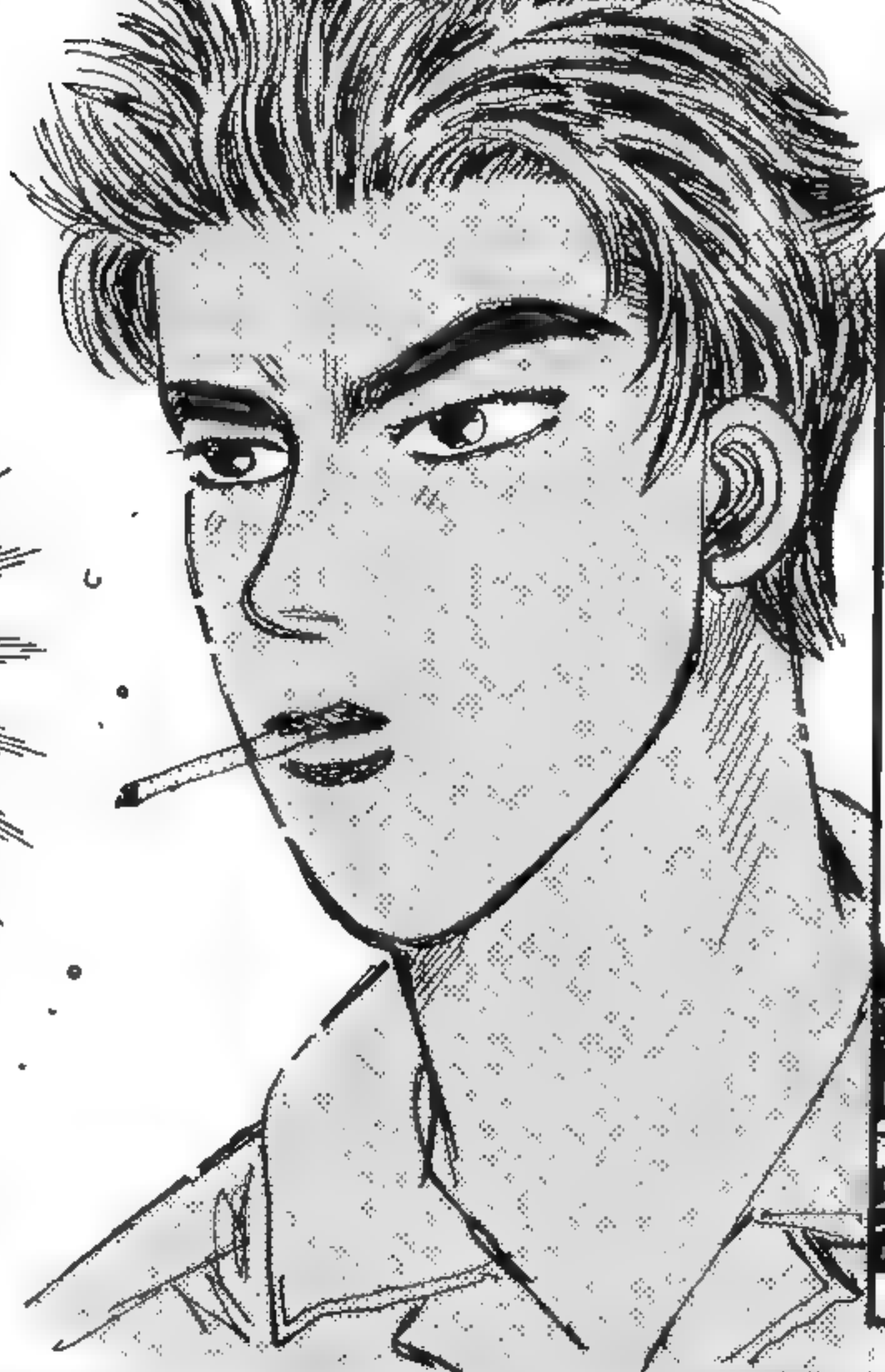
FANCY  
BASTARD.

SURE  
LIKES  
TO MAKE  
PEOPLE  
WAIT,  
DOESN'T  
HE?





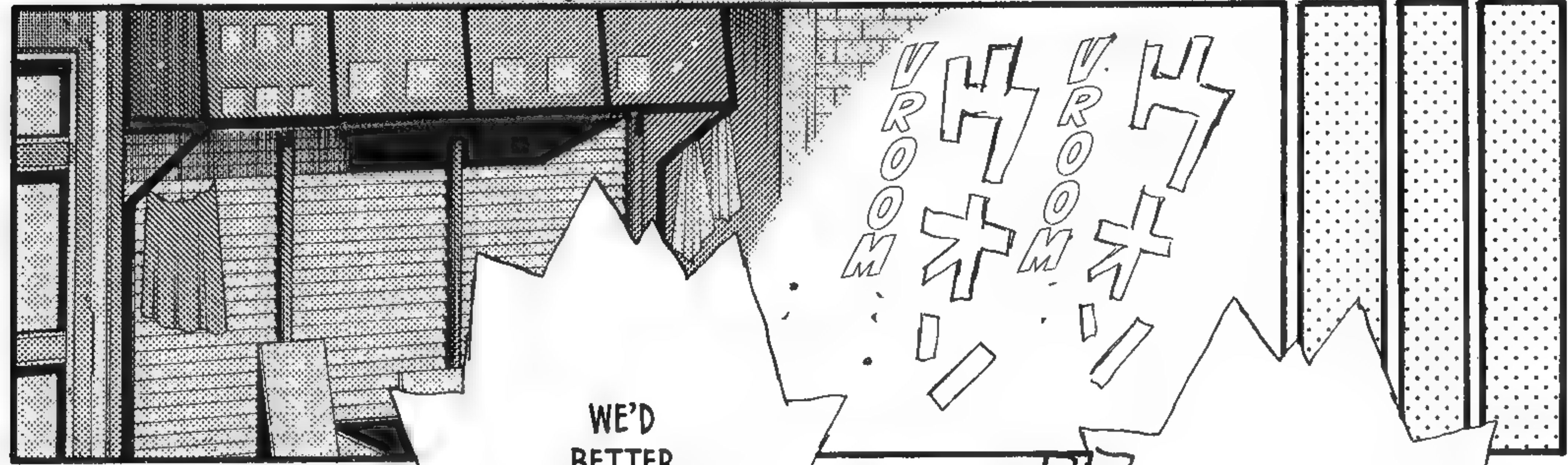
HE'S  
GONNA  
SHOW!



I'M SURE  
OF IT.

NAW, BRO.  
HE'LL BE  
HERE.

K' BM K' BM K' BM



VROOM VROOM

WE'D  
BETTER  
HURRY,  
TAKUMI!  
TIME'S  
WASTING!

THAT'S THE  
STORY, DAD!  
I'M TAKING  
THE CAR!

VRRRR





WHAT  
HAPPENED?



TR

THE LOOK  
IN HIS EYES.  
HAVEN'T SEEN  
THAT BEFORE.

UT



I'M NOT  
IN THE SPEED  
STARS' TOP  
THREE FOR  
NOTHING!

DOWNHILL'S  
ONE THING,  
BUT GOING  
UP? HE'S GOT  
NOTHING ON  
ME.

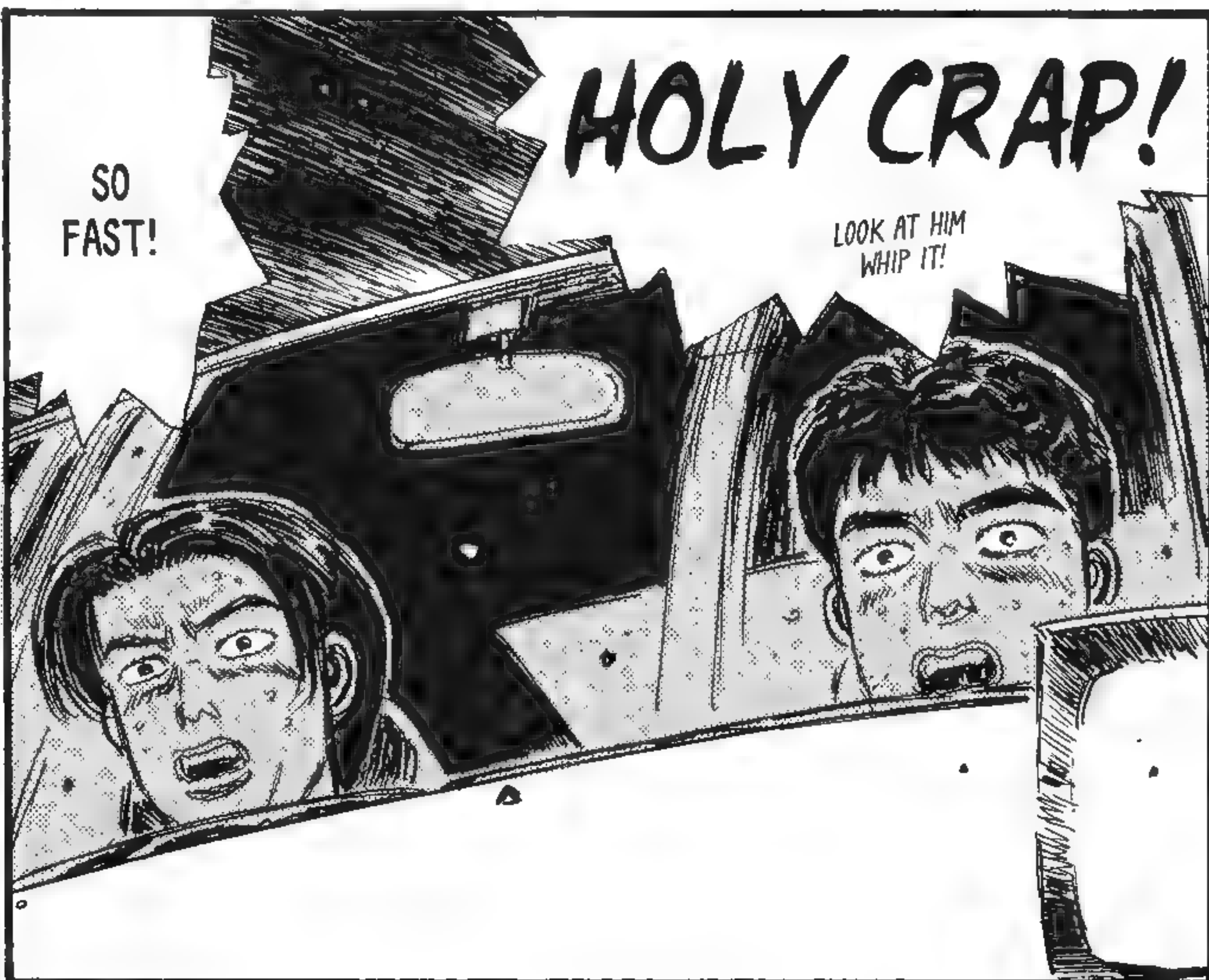
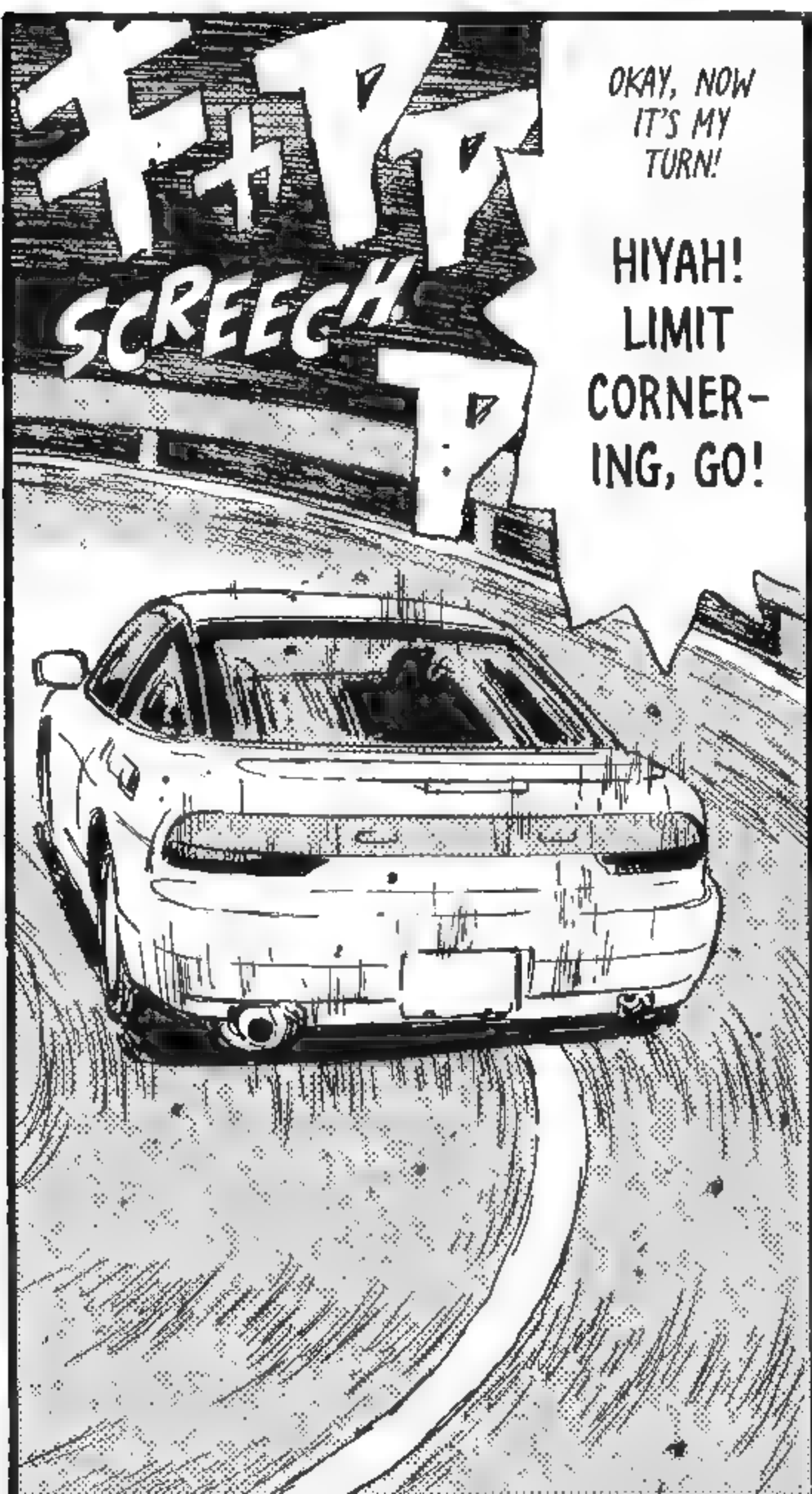
I'VE GOT  
A 2-LITER  
TURBO.

EXCUSE  
ME, BUT THE  
OTHER GUY  
IS A SPORT  
COMPACT  
WITH NO  
TURBO.

WE'RE  
ALMOST  
THERE, KENJI.  
THINK YOU  
CAN FOLLOW  
HIM?

SMIRK









HUH?!



NOW,  
TURBO  
POWER,  
FULL  
DEPLOY!

WE'RE  
OUT!



I DON'T  
SEE THE  
EIGHT-  
SIX!

HE'S  
GONE!

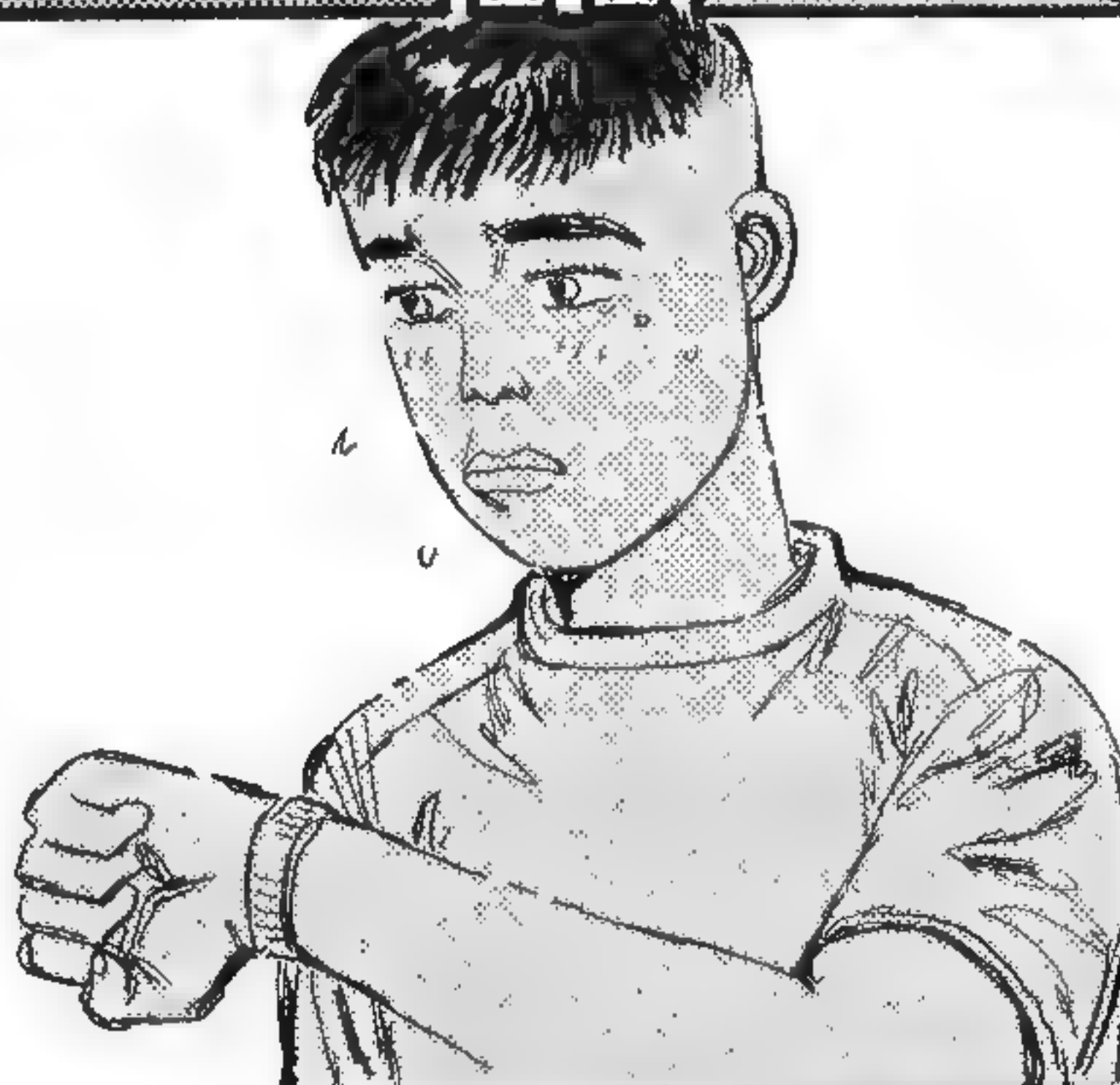




NO SIGN  
OF TAKUMI.  
I GUESS HE  
WOULDN'T  
LISTEN TO  
THEM.

THE RACE  
IS SUPPOSED  
TO START AT  
TEN O'CLOCK.  
JUST FIVE  
MORE  
MINUTES...

DIDN'T  
THINK HE  
WOULD.



THE  
SPEED  
STARS  
DIDN'T DO  
ANYTHING  
WRONG. IT  
WAS ALL  
ME!

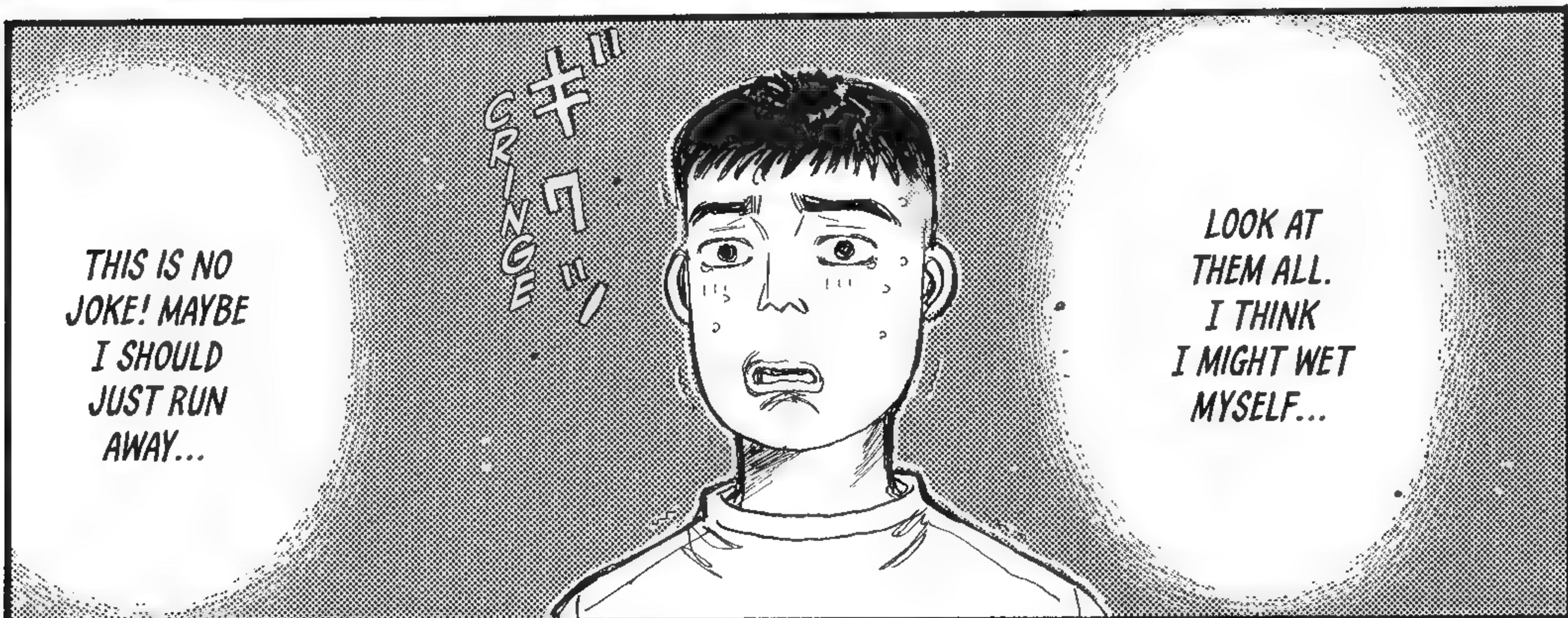
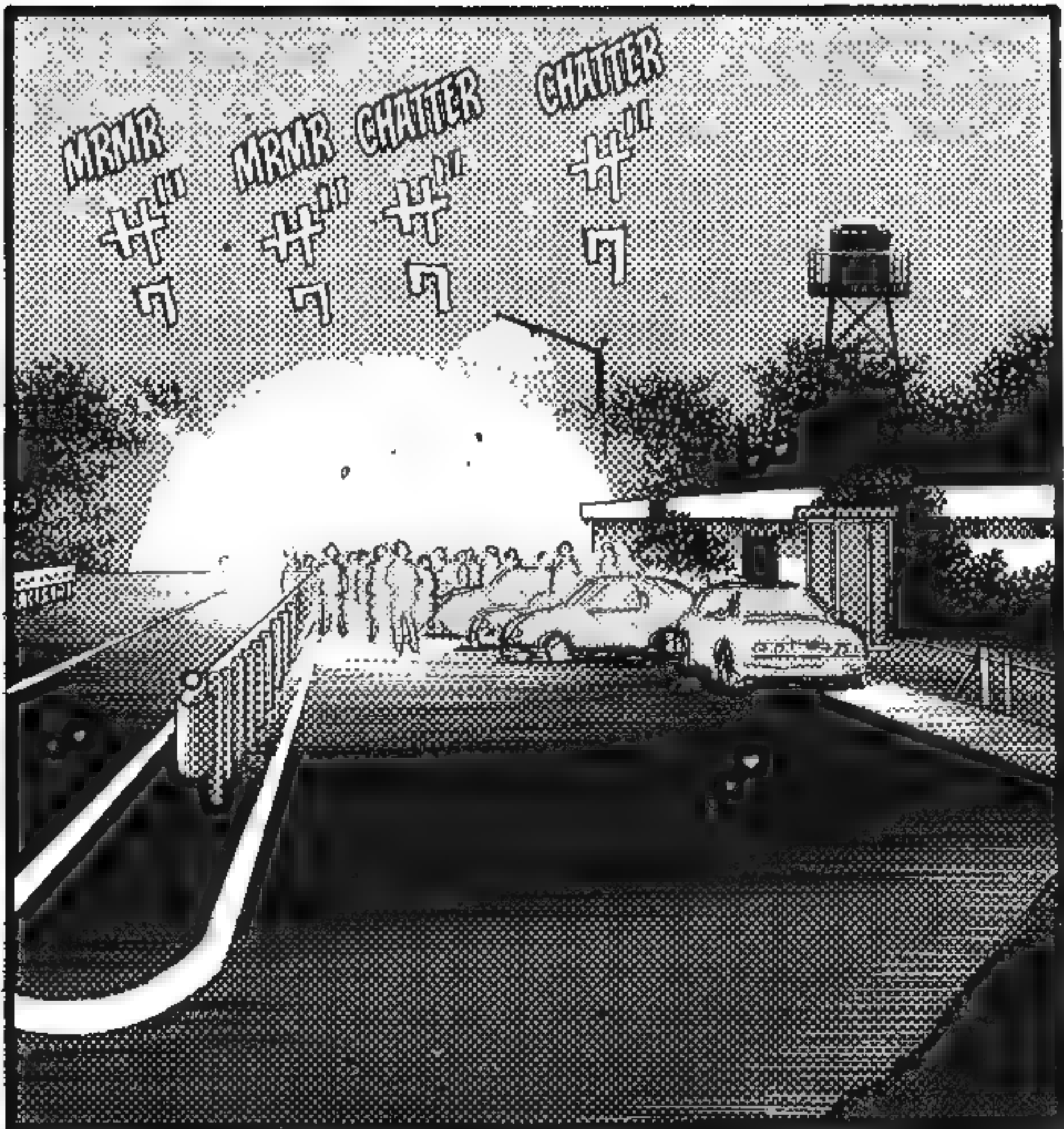
...BUT  
THIS IS  
SOME-  
THING  
I SHOULD  
DO  
ALONE.

I KNOW  
IKETANI-  
SENPAI  
SAID TO  
WAIT...

I GUESS  
IT'S TIME  
TO BE A  
MAN AND  
GO APOLO-  
GIZE.







THIS IS NO  
JOKE! MAYBE  
I SHOULD  
JUST RUN  
AWAY...

LOOK AT  
THEM ALL.  
I THINK  
I MIGHT WET  
MYSELF...



ANYONE!  
SAAAVE  
ME!

MOM!  
DAD!  
GOD!



MY KNEES  
WON'T  
EVEN HOLD  
ME UP!

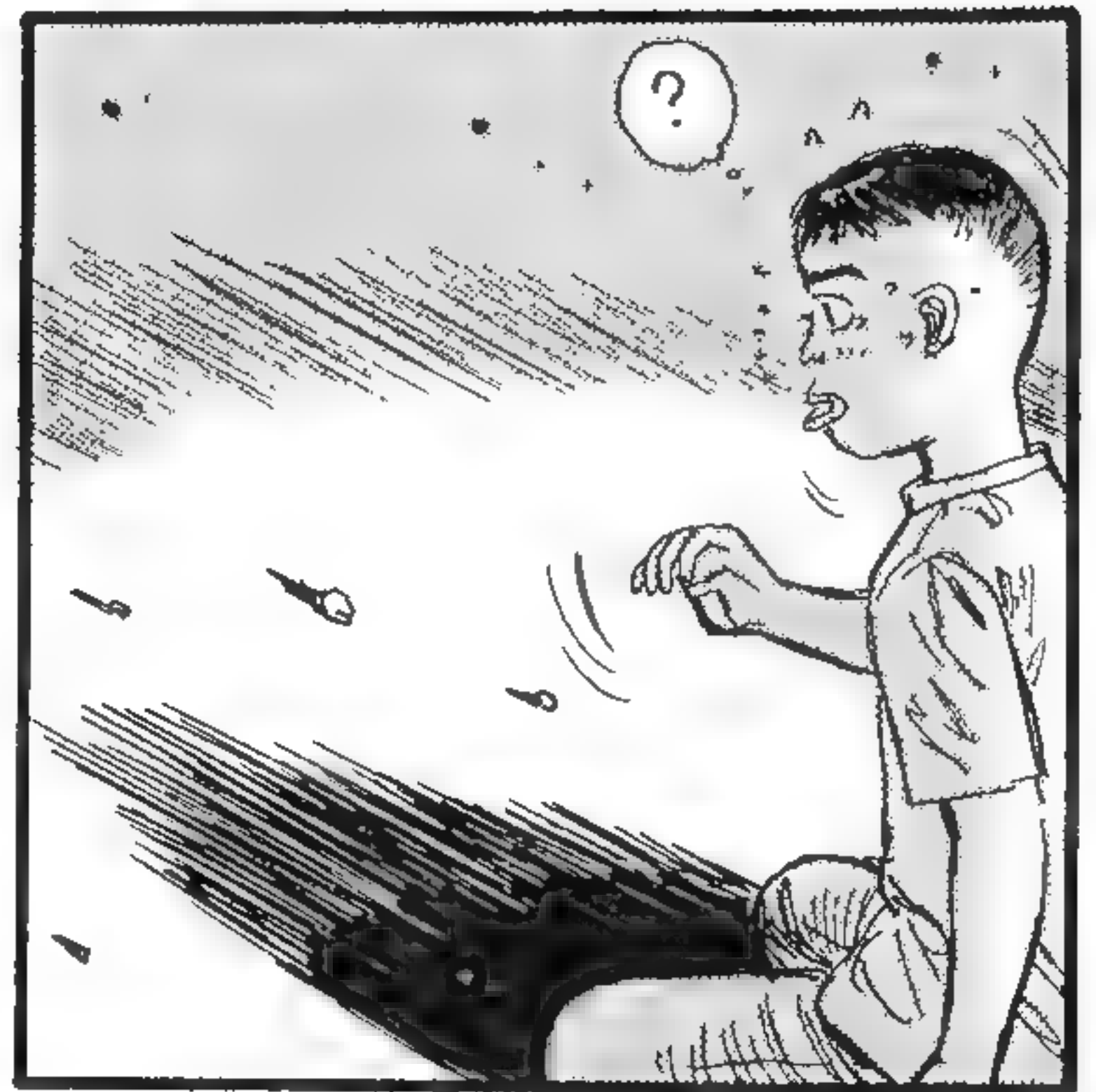
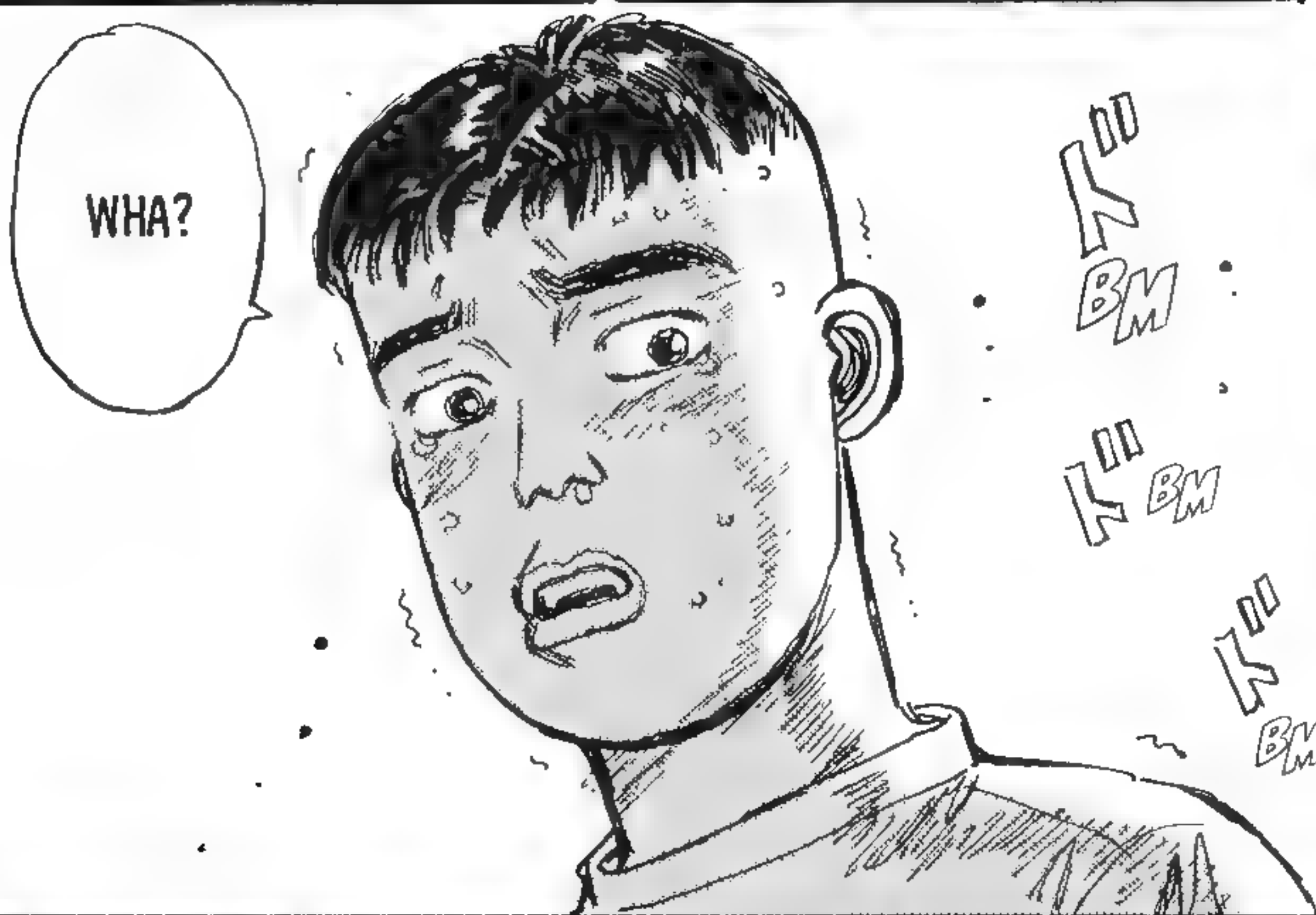
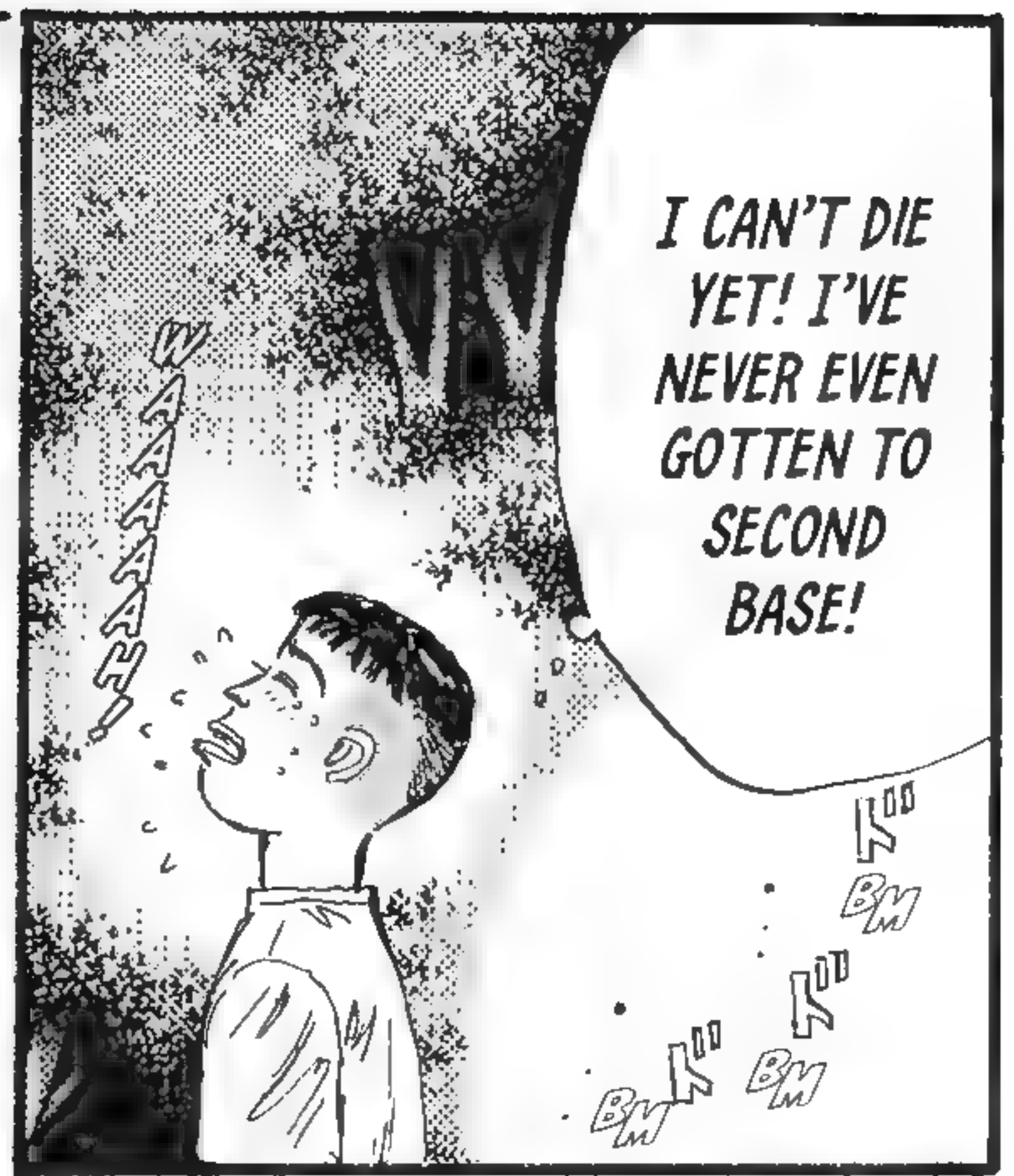
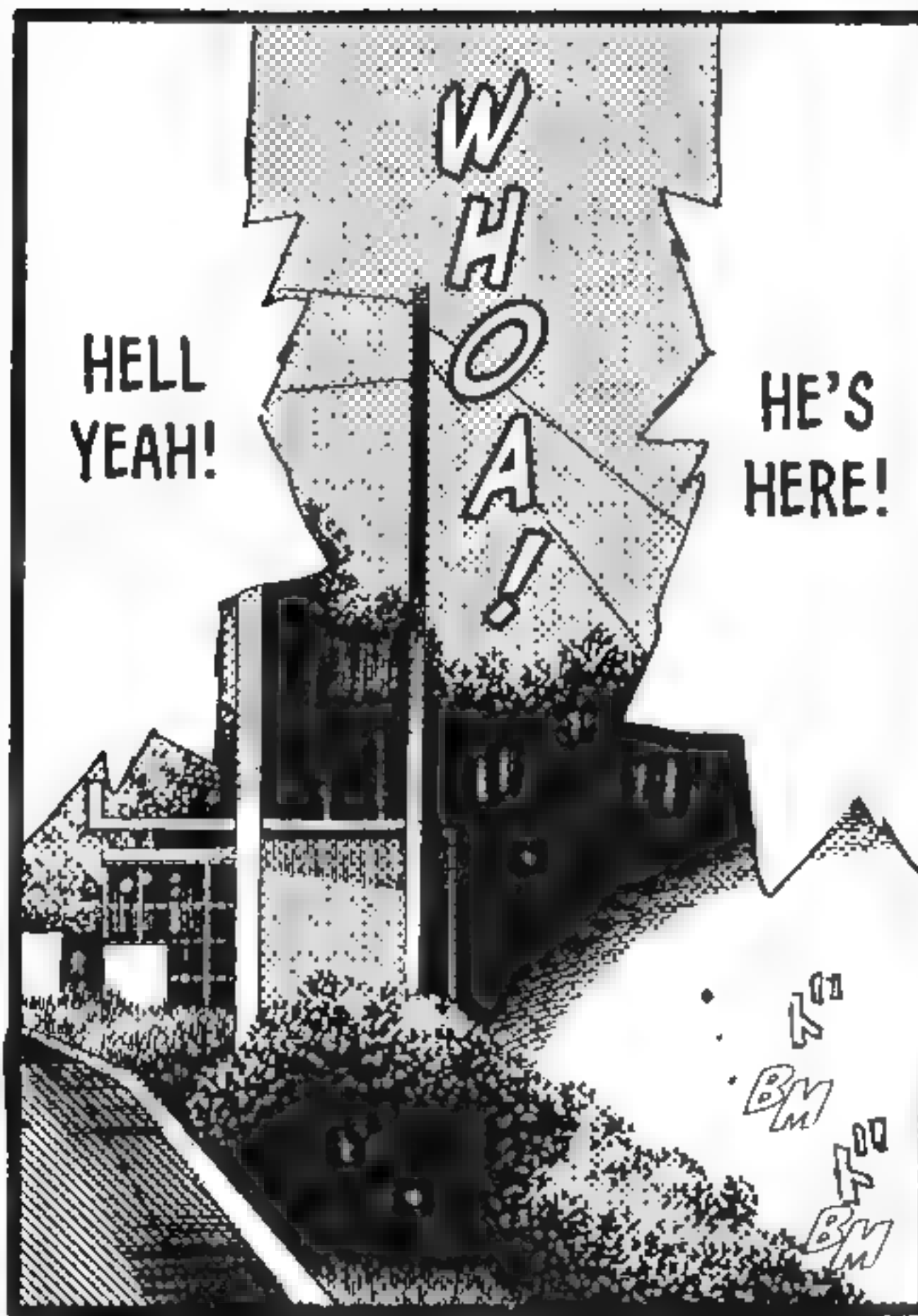
JELLY



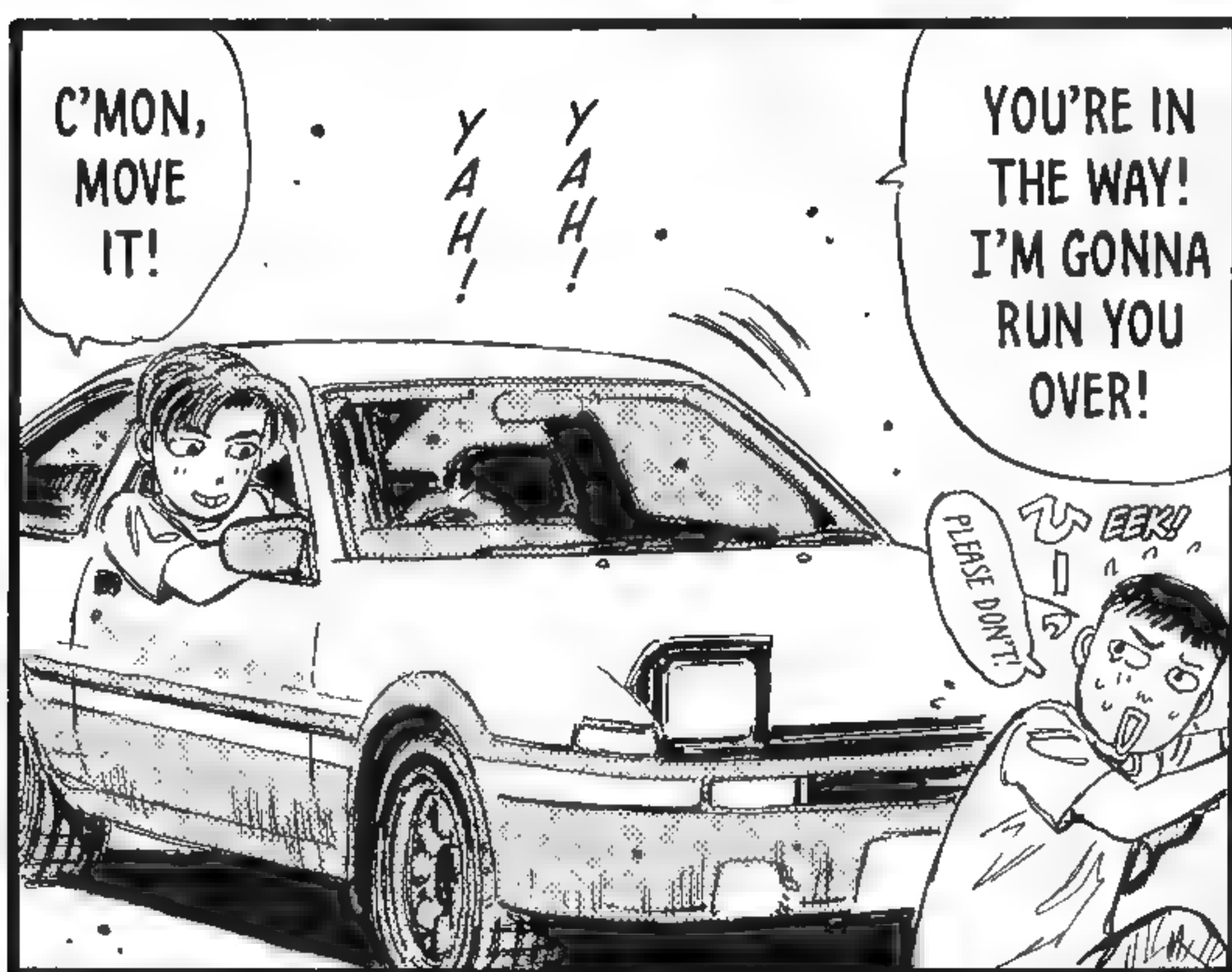
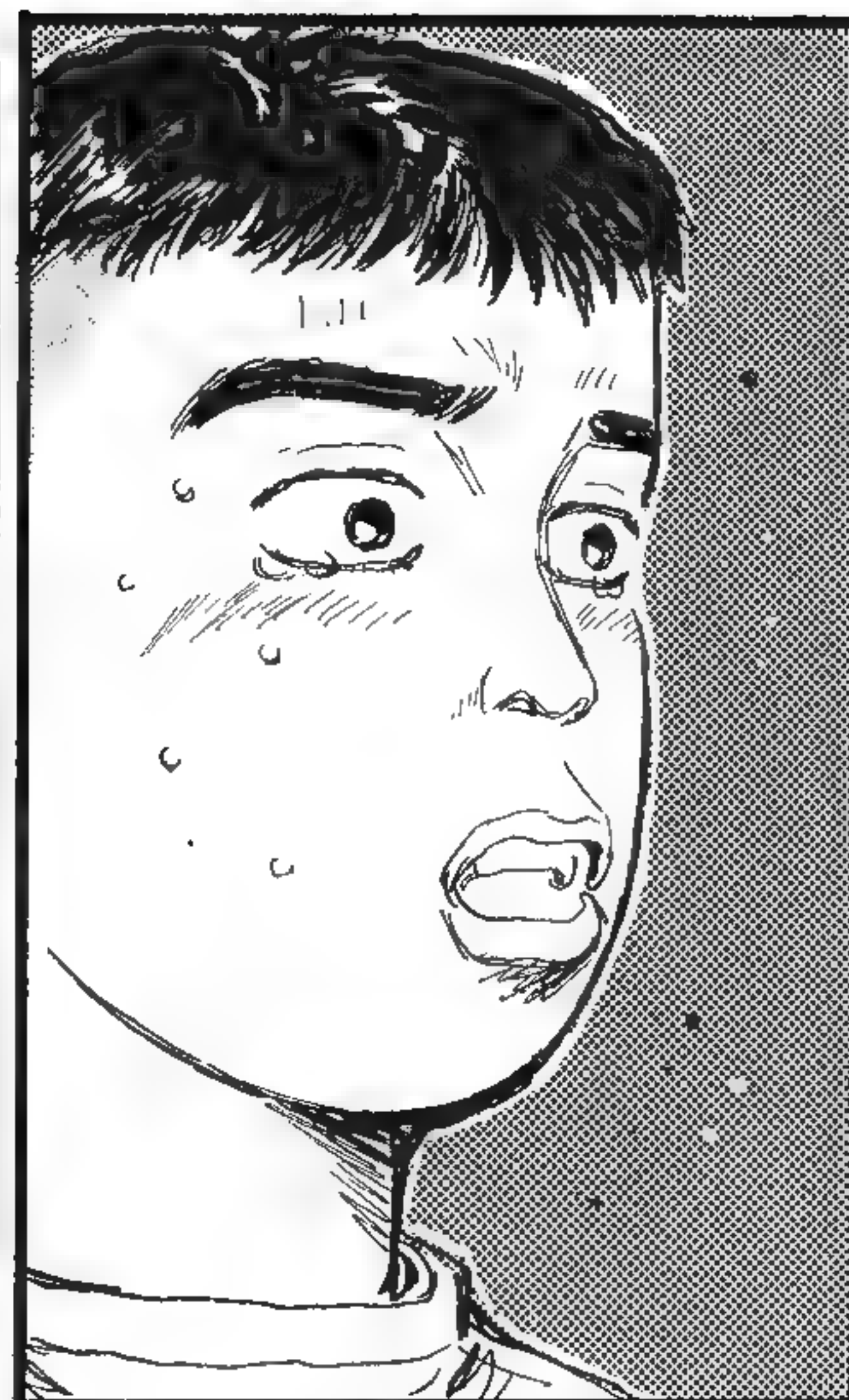
I COULD  
BEG AND  
PLEAD, AND  
THEY'D  
PROBABLY  
STILL KILL  
ME!

WHAT AM  
I SUPPOSED  
TO SAY?  
"SORRY,  
THE EIGHT-  
SIX ISN'T  
COMING"?

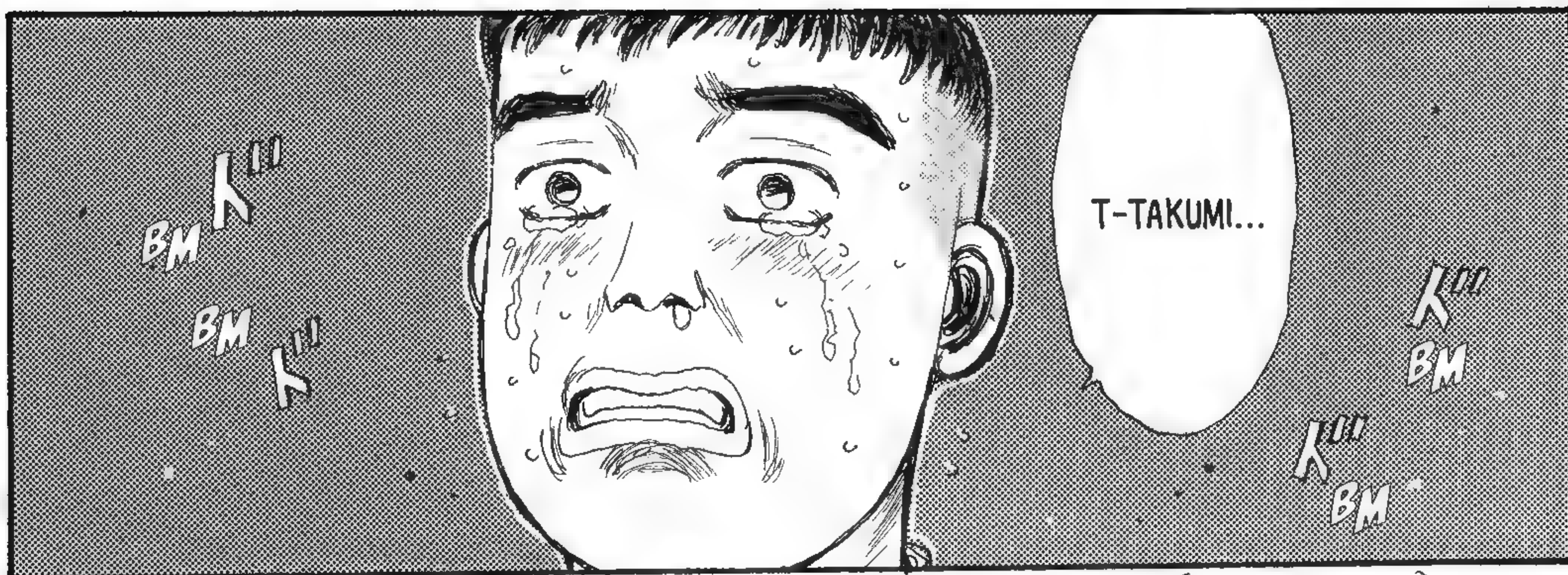












T-TAKUMI...

BM K!!  
BM T!!

K!!  
BM  
K!!  
BM



...THEY'VE  
GOTTA SAY  
YES, RIGHT?

WHEN  
SOMEONE  
CHALLENGES  
A RACER...

K!!  
BM  
K!!  
BM

HEH!

BM K!!

BM K!!



DAAGGUU-  
BEEE!

(HE'S TRYING TO  
SAY "TAKUMI.")

BM K!!  
BM K!!

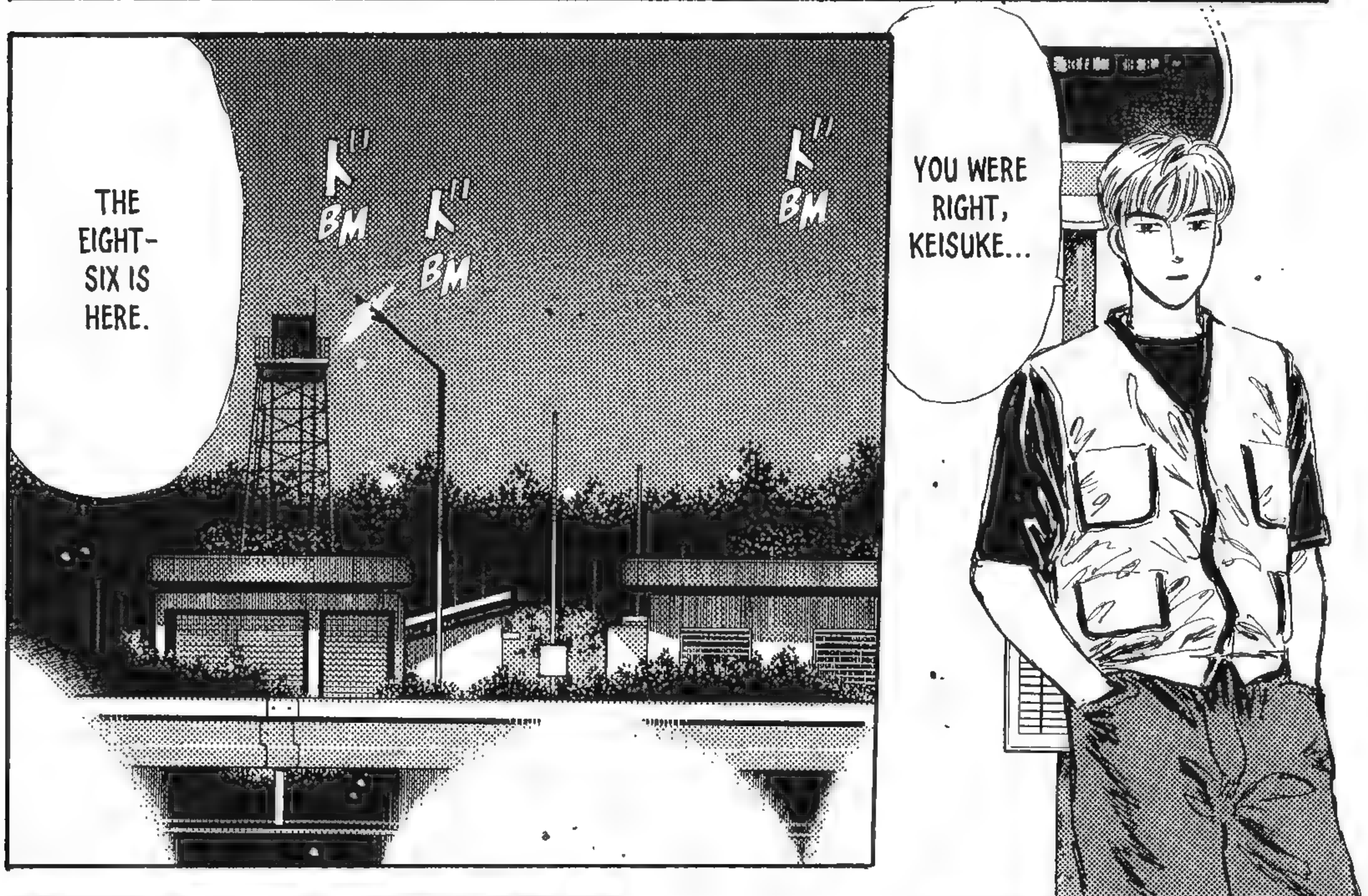
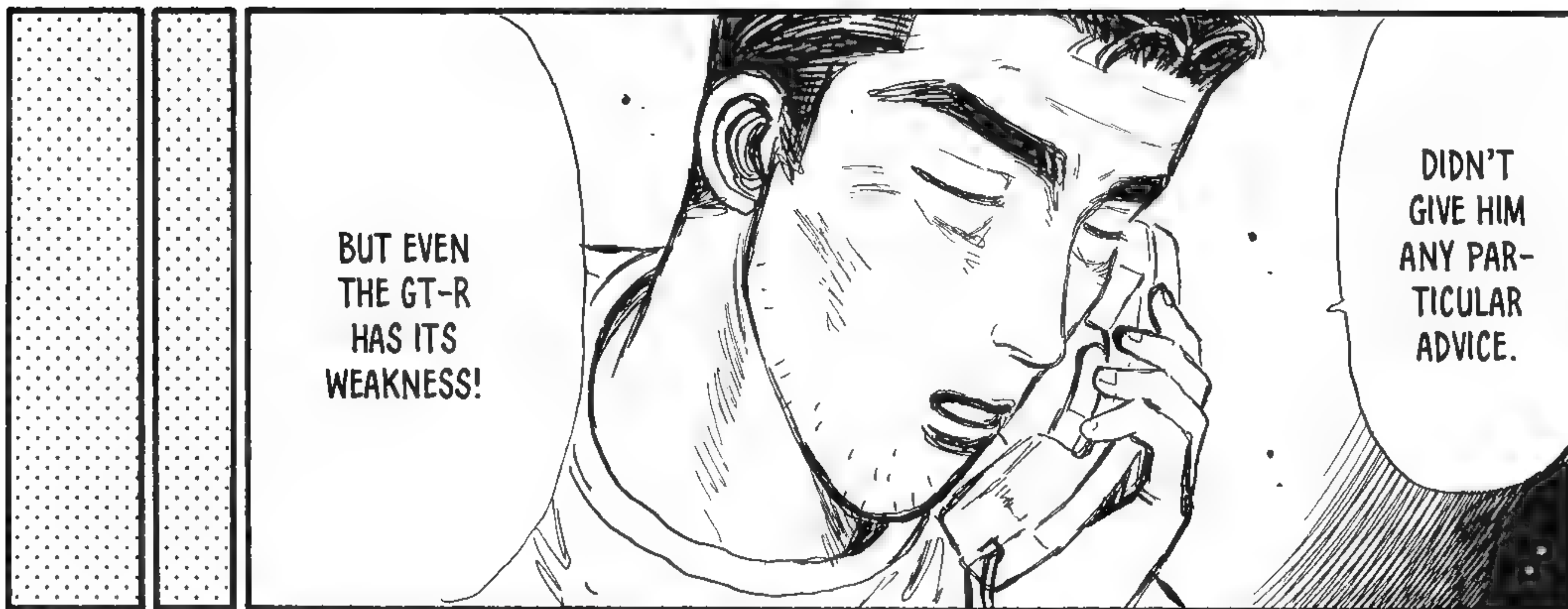
K!!  
BM  
K!!  
BM  
K!!  
BM





Not your average middle-aged guys, huh?









HE WON'T  
LOSE THIS  
RACE,  
ANYWAY.

DOESN'T  
MATTER.



THE MINUTE  
I SAW HIM,  
HE MADE ME  
SICK. HE'S MY  
ENEMY.

I  
WAS, BUT  
I GAVE IT  
UP.



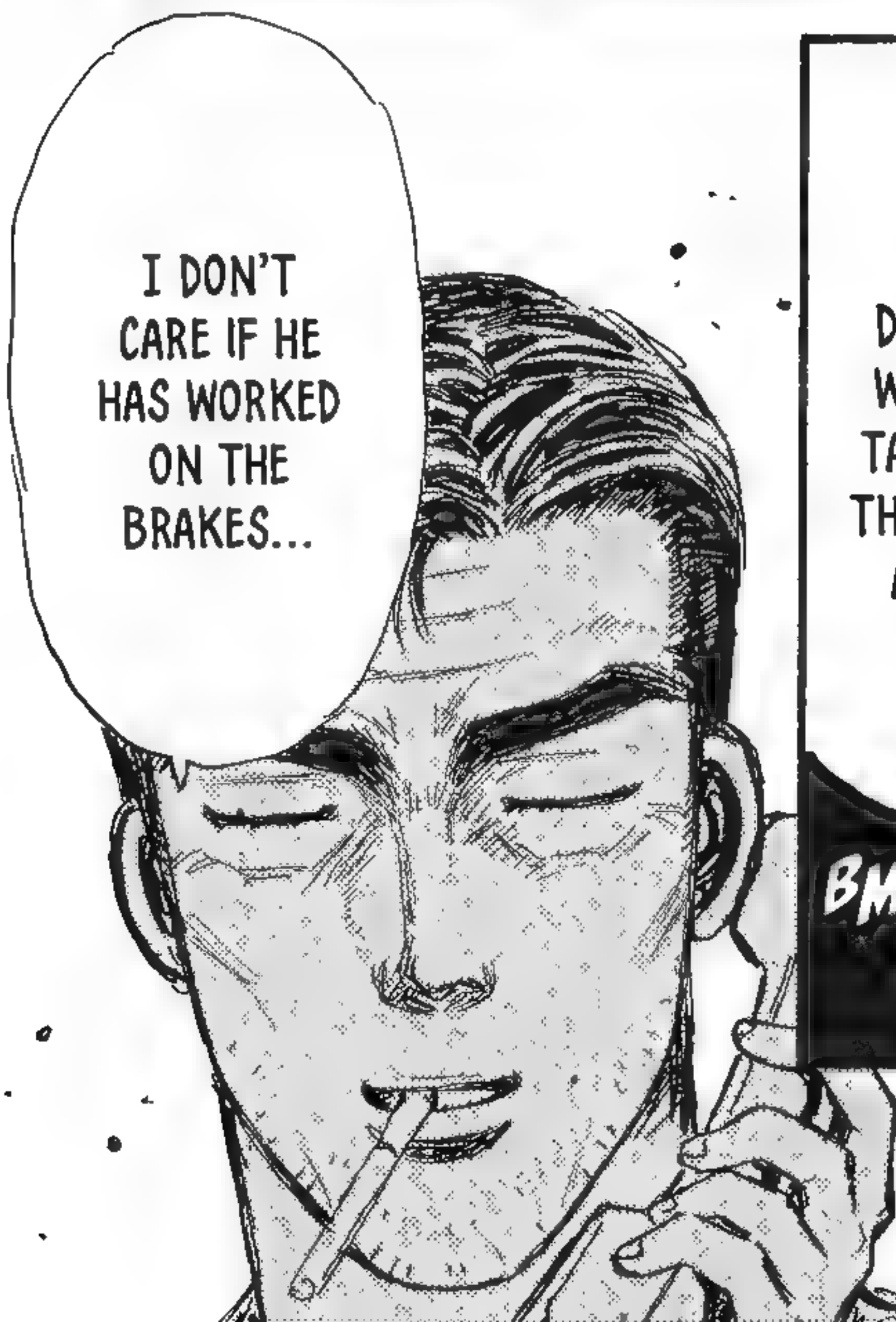
ITS  
WEAK POINT  
IS HOW FRONT-  
HEAVY IT IS. IT  
CREATES UNDER-  
STEER.



...IS  
HOW  
HEAVY  
IT IS.



THE GT-R'S  
WEAKNESS...



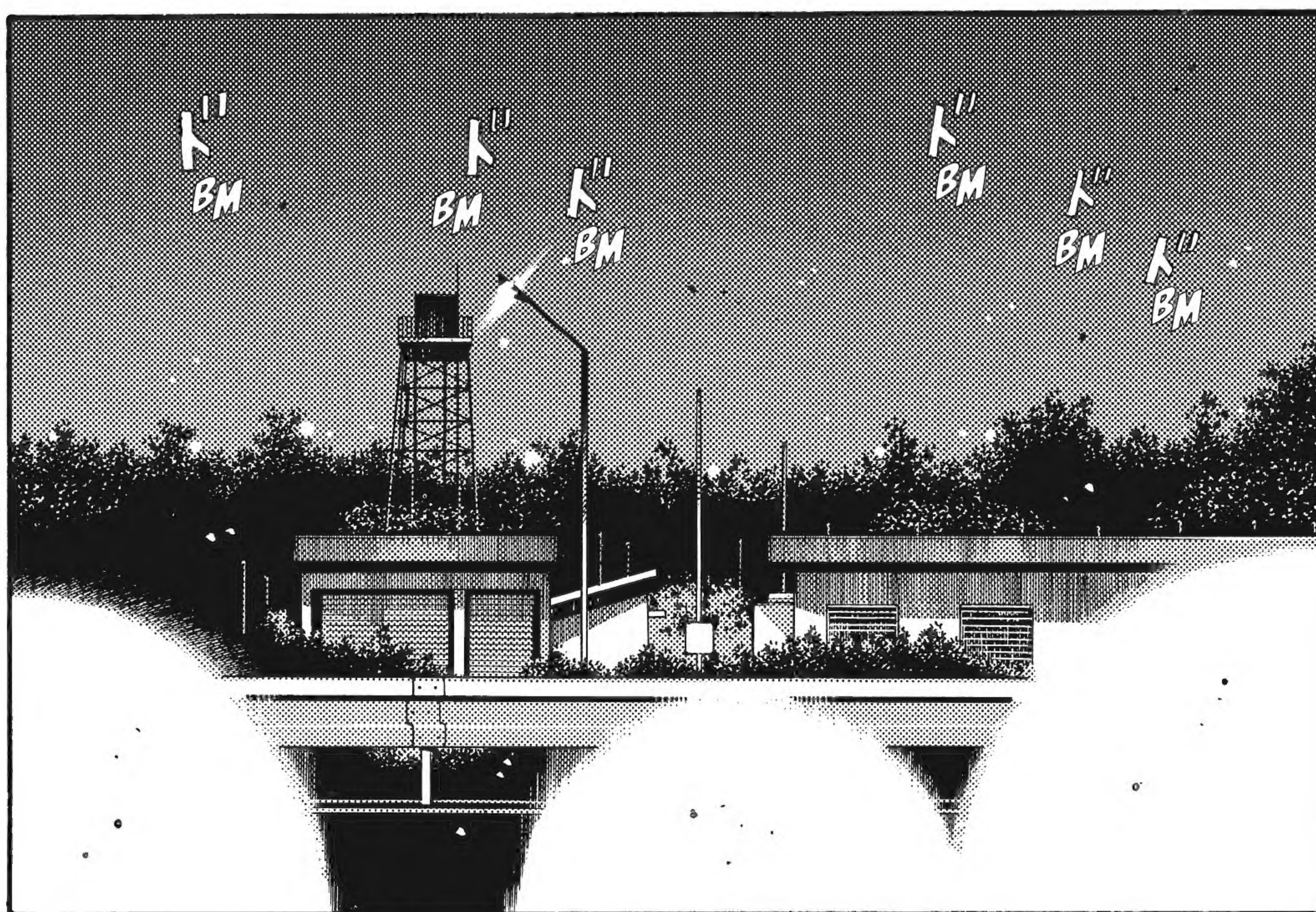
I DON'T  
CARE IF HE  
HAS WORKED  
ON THE  
BRAKES...



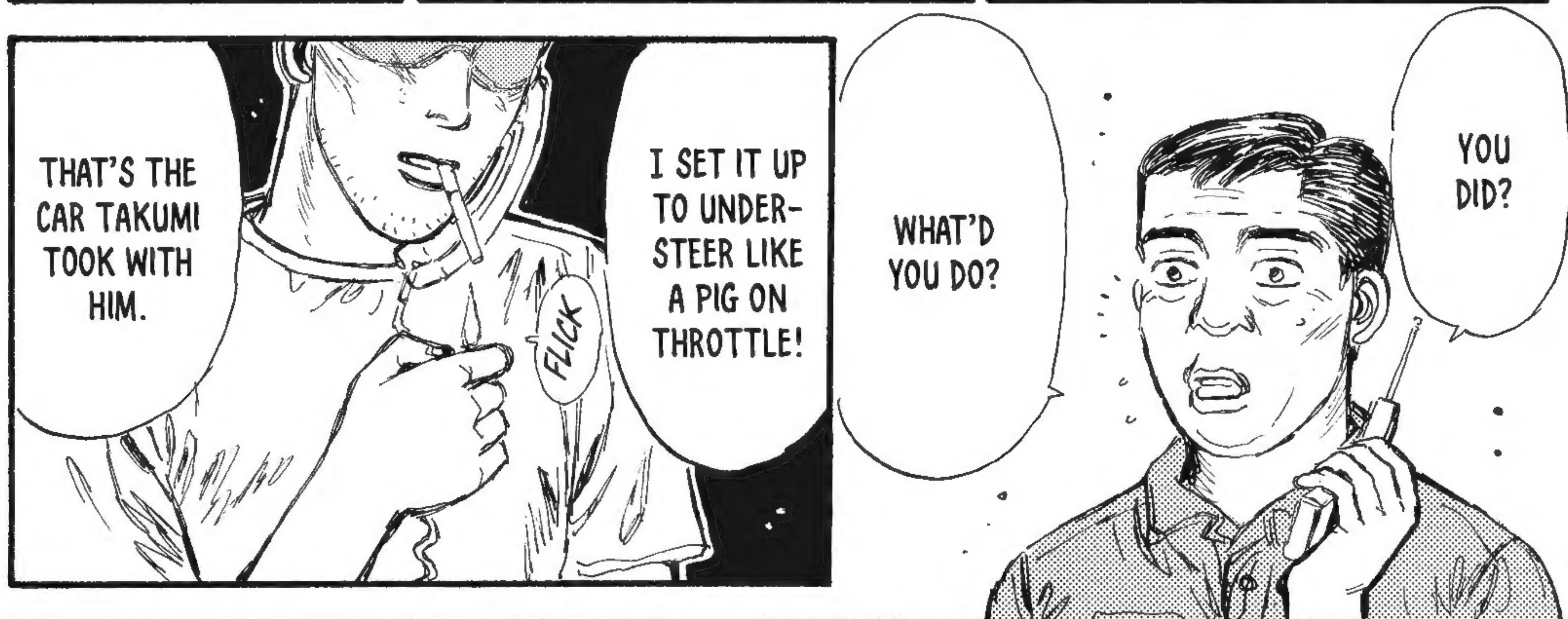
A TAXING  
DOWNHILL RUN  
WILL START TO  
TAKE A TOLL ON  
THE FRONT TIRES  
AND BRAKES.

TUNING  
AND TECHNIQUE  
CAN MAKE UP  
FOR SOME OF  
THAT, BUT THEY  
CAN'T CHANGE  
THE CAR'S  
FUNDAMENTAL  
CHARACTER.











BUT WITH  
WHAT I'VE  
GIVEN HIM,  
TAKUMI CAN  
GET ON THE  
GAS WAY  
SOONER.

I NORMALLY  
RUN A COM-  
PROMISE SETUP  
TO KEEP THE  
TOFU SAFE.

ESPECIALLY  
FOR  
DRIFTING!

YOU DON'T KNOW  
JACK, YUICHI. AN  
FR'S BETTER WITH  
A BIT OF PUSH-  
IF THE DRIVER  
KNOWS WHAT  
HE'S DOING.

...HE'LL  
LEAVE THE  
OTHER GUY  
IN THE  
DUST!

AND IF HE  
KNOWS WHAT  
HE'S DOING...



# INITIAL D



OMNIBUS  
2

**TO BE CONTINUED**